

Hafa Adai!

19 traditional healers given posthumous honors. **PAGE 2**  
FHA awards DPW \$4.2M in Yutu relief funds. **PAGE 8**

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## First tranche of tax refunds out Friday



### Manpower company owner billed \$91.8K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ordered the owner of a manpower services company on Saipan to pay a total of \$91,832 in default judgment to six Filipino

workers for defrauding them of cash in exchange for promised CW-1 visa applications that she never filed.

Superior Court Associate Judges Joseph N. Camacho and Kenneth L. Govendo recently issued separate default

judgments against Edita Capitan Cruz, who operated her business enterprises under various names such as W.E.C. Manpower Services, W.E.C. General Enterprises, W.E.C. Enterprises, W.E. Cruz Ca-  
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Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma, who helped launch China's online retailing boom, has stepped down.

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President Donald Trump has forced out his national security adviser, John Bolton.

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The first batch of tax refund checks will be out by tomorrow, Sept. 13, 2019, according to a Torres administration statement yesterday

Taxpayers who have filed their taxes with no errors on or before April 15, 2019, can expect a tax refund check in their mailboxes this Friday,

said Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

In a statement late afternoon yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG

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## Ching out of PSS

By MARC A. VENUS  
[marc\\_venus@saipantribune.com](mailto:marc_venus@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System will be continuing this school year without the services of PSS Finance and Budget director Christopher Ching, who has left PSS.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from a source that Ching

sent his letter of resignation to PSS leaders this week and served his last day yesterday.

Ching confirmed in an interview that he has resigned from his post at PSS and that he intends to pursue a second master's degree in the U.S. mainland. Ching, who has been with PSS since

See CHING on Page 4

## '2nd dengue victim stable'

By MARC A. VENUS  
[marc\\_venus@saipantribune.com](mailto:marc_venus@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The second dengue patient re-

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST VIOLENCE

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is spearheading an outreach to educate women about domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

IVA MAURIN

Story on Page 3

cored in the Commonwealth this year remains in stable condition, according to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. yesterday.

CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis said the patient is still recovering from the disease but is in stable condition.

Similar to the first case, the second patient has also just returned from a trip to Palau, where dengue is prevalent

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# Local

## 19 traditional healers given posthumous honors

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In a bid to honor healers who practiced and taught the traditional healing arts in the CNMI, the Indigenous Affairs Office, with the Inetnun Åmut yan Kulturun Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkor Aramasal Faluw, gave posthumous recognition

last Tuesday to 19 traditional healers in the CNMI.

Among those recognized during the Native Medicine Week proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor was local healer Juan Quitogua Kapileo, whose legacy is being continued by his youngest son and, hopefully, by his grandson, Kyle.

"I am proud of my grandpa. If he is alive, he would be happy that he got this," said Kyle Kapileo last Tuesday.

It had already been 10 years since Juan Quitogua Kapileo passed away but when he was alive, he served the community as a healer for 30 years.

"Traditional healing is very important in our culture. If



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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres poses with the families of the 19 traditional healers who were given posthumous recognition by the Indigenous Affairs Office at the Governor's Office last Tuesday. IVA MAURIN

they teach me [how to heal], I will accept to continue the legacy," Kyle Kapileo said.

Aside from Juan Quitogua Kapileo, the local healers who were also recognized were Victoria Borja Aguon, Edward Aldan Ayuyu, Emilio Aldan Ayuyu, Rosa Tanin Castro, Juana Santos Dela Cruz, Magdalena Lairopi Mettao, Tony Pialur Omar, Dionisia Saures Saralu, Aguida Pangelinan Sa-

blan, Regina Sablan, and Rosa Somorang Roppul-Warakai.

IAO is making it a mission to recognize local healers for their efforts to promote health.

"Health is very important, and these are people that have gone out of their personal time to make time for the community...to help them," IAO resident director Roman Tudela said. "They may have passed on, but we have family mem-

bers that are still around who can receive the recognition on their behalf."

Also awarded the posthumous recognition were Margarita Songao Atalig, Beata Duenas Mendiola, Carmen Cabrera Rangamar, and Carmen Matagolai Toves on Rota; and Carida Ogo Kiyoishi, Jesse Salas Mundo, and Henry Deleon Guerrero San Nicolas on Tinian.

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## Educating women about domestic, sexual violence

One in four women will experience violence in her lifetime. Yet many instances of domestic violence and sexual assault are extremely underreported. It is more so underreported for people of Pacific Island or Asian descent, which is most of the people living here in the CNMI.

To counter this, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is partnering with the Women's Affairs Office to protect women in the workforce and spread the word that violence against women won't be tolerated.

"Our role is to educate about sexual harassment in the workplace, to provide education generally about domestic violence and sexual assault, because the victims are overwhelmingly mostly women," said coalition executive director Maisie B. Tenorio.

NMCADSV works on issues like domestic violence and sexual assault to create safe communities for everyone. The task involves making sure that they are providing education, not only for women, but for their family and friends as well, and offering resources if needed.

"We want to ensure that women have all the information they need so that they can make healthy choices, be empowered in the workplace, and have the resources they need," Tenorio said.

Power is also a significant factor in sexual harassment. Many who experience sexual harassment tend not to report for fear of losing their jobs, especially if they have immigration status that can impact

their ability to seek help or report the crime, Tenorio said.

"We want to make sure that we're providing the education, and letting people know that

sexual harassment is a crime, and giving them the resources to report if and when they experience sexual harassment," she added.

For NMCADSV, ending

domestic violence and sexual assault requires a lot of education and prevention. This means also working with survivors who need services,

training, law enforcement, working with the hospital, as well as working with the Attorney General's Office, to address the issue from all angles.

To learn more about domestic violence and sexual assault, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@end-violencenmi.org. (Iva Maurin)

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**Domestic abuse by the numbers**

**Every 60 seconds 20 people** are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S.

**10 million+ women and men a year**

**1 in 3 women 1 in 4 men** have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime

**20,000** phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide on a typical day

**15%** intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime

**Women between the ages of 18-24** are most commonly abused by an intimate partner

**34%** Only 34% of people who are injured by intimate partners receive medical care for their injuries

Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCAADV)  
Graphic: Staff, TNS

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# First-ever Micronesia Cleanup Day tomorrow

The CNMI government, together with community leaders and private partners, is set for the first-ever Micronesia Cleanup Day tomorrow, Sept. 13, 2019.

During the 24th Micronesian Islands Forum last July, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joined the leaders of the governments of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the U.S. territory

of Guam to address regional issues and challenges facing Micronesia.

The chief executives of these island governments recognized that the increase of trash on land and in waters pose a great threat to the islands' way of life—harming marine life, contaminating unique natural resources, and hurting the viability of tourism industries.

This prompted the lead-

ers to declare Sept. 13, 2019, as Micronesia Cleanup Day with islandwide cleanups and activities on all Micronesian islands.

"Micronesia Cleanup Day provides all communities within Micronesia the opportunity to come together as a united people to promote cleanliness, remove environmental waste, and make a stand against littering, pollution, and threats to our island

way of life," said Torres.

"Here on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, we all understand the effects of climate change as we recover from two devastating typhoons. Protecting our environment means protecting our economy, our tourism, and our way of life. We must come together as one people and as one Micronesia to fight climate change on our islands," Torres added.

Separately, Lt. Gov. Arnold

I. Palacios said, "Our collective efforts as one Micronesia will promote environmental protection, create a more beautiful environment for our residents and visitors to enjoy, foster responsibility within our youth and collaboration across all sectors of our communities, and encourage everyone to work together to protect our beautiful islands in the Pacific."

"This is the start of a greater movement for protecting our resources for future generations. Weather permitting, we encourage everyone who call the Marianas home to join us for this cleanup," Palacios added.

Government agencies, pri-

ivate businesses, and community organizations will be in designated areas all over Saipan, Tinian, and Rota collecting trash, cleaning up recreational sites, and making public areas safer for enjoyment.

The 2019 Micronesia Cleanup Day is organized by the CNMI Office of the Governor and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality in coordination with the Micronesian Islands Forum.

Interested residents and community groups can visit [dcrm.gov.mp](http://dcrm.gov.mp) to register their organization, contact Jihan Younis at [outreach@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:outreach@dcrm.gov.mp), or call 664-8300 for more information. (PR)

## CHCC staff complete coding training

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s medical coding staff underwent a weeklong coding training for an entire week last week to enable them to correctly translate a diagnosis and treatment into a code that can be then used by CHCC's billing department to ensure that customers are billed correctly.

CHCC spokesperson Zoe

Travis said this training was conducted by Certified Professional Coder instructors Paul Chandler and Marc Aguilar of Ohana Coding. Travis said the revenue cycle team underwent training to prepare for the CPC certification exam.

"CHCC consists not only of medical staff, but also a variety of other personnel who en-

sure that the corporation functions efficiently. Some of the corporation's most essential staff are our medical coding personnel," she said.

Ensuring that CHCC's coders are nationally certified is an important step in increasing the efficiency and accuracy of CHCC medical coding and billing personnel, and improv-

ing CHCC as a whole.

Once a doctor has made a diagnosis on a patient, the coder will then receive that and provide the billing department with the proper code needed for the service provided to the patient.

"Understanding the coding process can be difficult as each type of diagnosis and treatment has a different code, and it is good to see that they are now certified," Travis said. (Marc A. Venus)

Travis said. CHCC assures that there is still no evidence that on-island transmission of dengue has occurred and it believes that the chances of an outbreak remain low.

CHCC confirmed its first dengue fever case last Aug. 9. Once the patient reported symptoms of dengue fever, CHCC quarantined the patient to keep any means of spreading the fever as remote as possible.

The Guam Department of

Public Health and Social Services reported last Sunday another case of dengue fever. The individual recently returned from a trip to Yap.

DPHSS reported that there is no dengue outbreak and dengue virus transmission is not occurring in Guam. It reported a total of 41 cases from 1988 to 2018, with the DPHSS reporting two cases this year.

Guam will likely continue to see additional suspected and confirmed dengue fever cases this year from immi-

grants, migrants, and residents who travel back and forth to countries that have dengue fever outbreaks.

CHCC urges the CNMI to "Fight the Bite" by taking precautions of avoiding mosquito bites. They approximate that one in four people will become sick and it usually does not require hospitalization.

"It is best that the CNMI stays vigilant of the dengue fever as we work to remove every possibility of an outbreak to occur," Travis said.

Muña about his plans to continue his education since last December and he said that Muña understood his decision and respected it.

He personally thanked Muña for trusting him and that he will never forget the generosity of the entire PSS. "I have spent enough time [on] the islands and had enough time to rekindle [ties] with my friends and family, and I believe that it is time I

continue [with my] a higher education," Ching said.

*Saipan Tribune* sent separate inquiries to Muña and BOE chair Janice Tenorio regarding the PSS and BOE's comments about Ching's resignation and replacement. However, *Saipan Tribune* was told that there are more to be discussed about this matter during the BOE's meeting this morning at its office on Capital Hill.

plan, annual budget proposals, school shelter operations, Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement setup, and the austerity measures," Ching said.

Ching thanked the PSS and Board of Education leadership for trusting and providing him the opportunity to serve as finance director. He said that he has been in communication with Education Commissioner Glenn

ensuring that the checks are processed accurately and as quickly as possible.

"We are excited for the release of these funds so that our community can increase spending in our economy and meet important needs. That's what it's all about, and this administration wants to help in anyway we can," Atalig added.

He noted that all refunds in this first batch, including Tinian and Rota, will be released in the mail by Friday.

The Office of the Governor and the Department of Finance, through its media partners, will notify the public of the next release dates as they become available. (PR/ *Saipan Tribune*)

future use," said Torres in the statement.

"We are committed to releasing tax refund checks for every taxpayer," he added.

The statement also quoted Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios expressing appreciation to the Department of Finance, Revenue and Taxation, CNMI Treasury, and Electronic Data Processing for getting this first batch of tax refund checks out.

"We understand that it took some time to release checks, and we appreciate the community's patience. We look forward to the release of the additional checks for our community within the coming weeks," Palacios added.

According to Finance's

conversion, fraud, violation of the Consumer Protection Act's unfair and deceptive acts and practices provisions, and violation of the Alien and Immigrant Consumer Protection Act's provisions.

The judges deemed Cruz's conduct to be "willful and outrageous" and were done with intent to obtain personal and financial advantages to herself.

According to the complaints, Cruz advertised in May 2016 her business as a manpower agency and a service to process paperwork for foreign workers who are seeking work as CW-1 workers.

Cruz's office was located in Garapan. It had a big sign on the window announcing that her business was hiring. The sign listed several different job occupations for which it was seeking workers.

The plaintiffs allegedly paid between \$500 to \$1,200 so that Cruz could process their papers and file a petition for them and some family members as her CW-1 workers.

The complainants in those pending cases are Jeanet Ma-Ano Bucayo, Eduardo B. Basilio, Jeneta Ciruelos Arceo, and Mercedes Real Abubo. The six, except for Camay, Lapeceros, and Jovelio, were promised that Cruz could process their papers and file a petition for them as her CW-1 workers.

Camay was promised the filing of her and her sister's CW-1 permit petition, while Jovelio was promised the filing of his and his son's CW permit petition. Lapeceros was promised the filing of his and his wife's CW permit petitions.

Cruz never filed any petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for the complainants and never paid any of the money back.

As for the four pending cases, only Arceo managed to recover \$1,180 out of \$2,000 that she allegedly paid to Cruz. Arceo got back \$1,180 with the help of the CNMI Department of Labor, where she also filed a complaint.

## DENGUE

From Page 1

right now, and CHCC expects the patient to make a full recovery. She said CHCC is implementing the same procedures it did with the first patient in order to assure that the dengue fever does not spread and to limit any chance of an outbreak occurring in the CNMI.

"It takes a matter of days to fully recover [from dengue],"

## CHING

From Page 1

2017, describes his tenure with PSS as a "challenging yet interesting journey."

In a separate Facebook post, he expressed mixed emotions about resigning.

"During my time with PSS, I had to face numerous challenges such as implementation of the compensation

## TAX

From Page 1

Torres thanked the CNMI public for their patience and reiterated his administration's commitment to releasing tax refunds, tax rebates, and child tax as soon as they become available.

"I want to sincerely thank our community for their patience. Getting these tax refund checks into your hands has always been a priority, and we are very pleased we are now able to do it so that our people and their families can use it to meet their most immediate needs, spend it within our economy, or save up for

future use," said Torres in the statement.

"We are committed to releasing tax refund checks for every taxpayer," he added.

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#### MORE STUDENTS GOING TO NMC

The Northern Marianas College saw an increase in its enrollment at its Tinian campus. The college recently held an orientation for new students, who learned, among other things, tools and tips to maximize online resources available at the institution. The students are taking in classroom and online classes that include accounting, speech, and other subjects. The college also saw an increase in its overall enrollment.

NMC

## NMI honors the 9/11 fallen

Amidst the dark clouds and heavy rains, the CNMI community joined the rest of the nation in honoring Americans who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attack.

To mark the 18th commemoration of that day, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres ordered that the flag of the Commonwealth be flown at half-staff until sunset yesterday, in line with U.S. President Donald J. Trump's order that the U.S. flag be flown at half-staff until sunset throughout the United States and its territories.

Every Sept. 11, now called Patriot Day, the nation remembers the 3,000 people who perished on Sept. 11, 2001.

Many in the CNMI also joined the "Field of Heroes" Freedom Walk, which, be-

cause of the rain, became a caravan of cars, from the Garapan Fishing Base to the American Memorial Park, and the "We Will Never Forget" ceremony that followed after at the AMP Visitor Center Theater.

Field of Heroes ceremonies

will also be held on Tinian

on Sept. 16 at the Veterans

Memorial Park at 10am, and

on Rota on Sept. 17, at the

Corporal Joe G. Charfauros

Jr. Rota Veterans Memorial

Park at 4pm.

U.S. flags will also be on display at the American Memorial Park on Saipan until Sept. 16, at the Veterans Memorial Park on Tinian until Sept. 18; and at the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veterans Memorial Park on Rota until Sept. 12. **(Iva Maurin)**

## Water service interruption Friday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption in Tanapag and San Roque (lower side) tomorrow, Sept. 13, from 8am to 4pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is due to two waterline leaks located on the main road of



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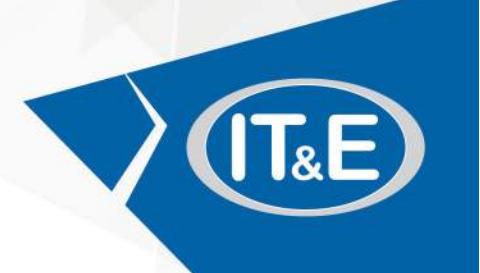
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## Norita is DORE's 7th graduate

The Drug Offender Re-entry Program of the U.S. District Court for the NMI had another graduate last Tuesday, making him the program's seventh graduate to date.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona handed a certificate of DORE completion to Roque Sablan Norita during a graduation ceremony at the District Court. As part of his reward for completing the DORE program, his supervised probation was reduced by one year, as per recommendation of U.S. Probation officer Gregory F. Arriola. That means Norita's super-

vised probation will expire on Nov. 18, 2020.

Manglona, who said she is impressed by Norita's pride and confidence in maintaining his honor and dignity, congratulated him for coming a long way in maintaining his sobriety.

"With your graduation today, you are again earning respect from the [DORE] team," the judge said.

Norita started participating DORE Program in December 2017.

Manglona said she remembers that Norita got started

with the program on the wrong foot and it was only during the third session when he first started to earn credit.

Manglona said Norita had a major setback and had another setback early this year.

The judge said Norita had 10 months of sobriety and was ready to graduate when "disaster" happened. Yet the DORE team never gave up on Norita, Manglona said. "You earned my respect and I hope you maintain that," the judge told Norita.

In reading his prepared speech, Norita thanked Manglona and the DORE team. He admitted he was not doing well at the start of the program as he had couple of violations.

That only solidified his will to become a better citizen, son, brother, and father, he said.

"I am proud to say that I made it," he said, adding that he will be living the rest of his life to be a better and cleaner person.

In July 2010, the District Court slapped Norita with a 30-month prison term for his conviction of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" and illegal possession of guns.

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In December 2017, the DORE Program accepted Norita.

The DORE Program is a post-incarceration cooperative effort program of the U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, Federal Public Defender,

and U.S. Attorney's Office. It provides treatment and sanction alternative to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders release from federal prison. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

## Emergency power outage today

There will be an emergency power interruption today, Sept. 12, 2019, from 4am to 6:30am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel to safely replace the existing air break switch at Power Plant IV with a new ABS switch. The replacement of the ABS switch is part of CUC's power plant maintenance for a better, safe and operational facility.

■ Areas to be affected: Part of Northern Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Lower Navy Hill and Lower MIHA in Garapan.

■ Traffic lights affected: Puerto Rico and Navy Hill traffic lights.

■ Water wells to be affected: None

■ Wastewater lifts stations to be affected: None

CUC appreciates the understanding of the community during this emergency outage and will continue to work diligently for better utility services to the CNMI.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationl>). (PR)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Garapan street market closed

The Garapan Street Market tonight, Sept. 12, 2019, will be closed due to poor weather conditions. Regular hours of operation will resume next Thursday, should weather permit. For any questions, contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 322-9982.

### Kagman schools' PTS meeting set

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237-3150 (KagEs), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 664-3781 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

For more information contact Kumisión chair/Gé'heho' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritaria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

### Guam Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting set

The newly elected Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District board of directors' swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for Sept. 23, 2019, at 1:30pm at the Governor's Cabinet conference room in Adelup. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the board will conduct a public meeting for the election of officers of the board. (PR)



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

## PUBLIC NOTICE

08/30/2019

### Notice for Public Comment

### Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

| Program Year/<br>IDIS No.: | Program: | Activity Name:  | Subrecipient:                          | Approved Budget:    | Proposed Reprogramming Amount: | Proposed Revised Project Budget: | Current IDIS Funded Amount: |
|----------------------------|----------|---|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2018/691                   | CDBG     | Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof                 | Office of the Rota Mayor               | \$287,212.40        | (\$96,000.00)                  | \$191,212.40                     | \$287,212.40                |
|                            |          | <b>Total Reprogrammed from Activities:</b>                          |  | <b>\$287,212.40</b> | <b>(\$96,000.00)</b>           |                                  |                             |
| 2017/676                   | CDBG     | Koblerville Youth Learning Center Expansion and Enhancement Project | Youth Affairs Office/Governor's Office | \$474,640.00        | \$96,000.00                    | \$570,640.00                     | \$474,640.00                |
|                            |          | <b>Total Reprogrammed to Activities:</b>                            |  |                     | <b>\$96,000.00</b>             |                                  |                             |

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before September 30, 2019, no later than 9:00 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office  
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950  
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670) 236-9702

INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB19-JUDICIARY-04  
SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

## "PURCHASE OF ONE COLOR MULTIFUNCTION MACHINE FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

The Commonwealth Judiciary ("Judiciary") is soliciting invitation for bids for one color multifunction machine.

The Invitation for Bids and supporting documents may be obtained at the cashier's window, Window #1, located at the front of the Guma' Hustisia / Jinwal Aweewe / House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 prohibiting gratuities, kickbacks and contingent fees shall apply.

ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO  
CHIEF JUSTICE

JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ  
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

## Norita is DORE's 7th graduate

The Drug Offender Re-entry Program of the U.S. District Court for the NMI had another graduate last Tuesday, making him the program's seventh graduate to date.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona handed a certificate of DORE completion to Roque Sablan Norita during a graduation ceremony at the District Court. As part of his reward for completing the DORE program, his supervised probation was reduced by one year, as per recommendation of U.S. Probation officer Gregory F. Arriola. That means Norita's super-

vised probation will expire on Nov. 18, 2020.

Manglona, who said she is impressed by Norita's pride and confidence in maintaining his honor and dignity, congratulated him for coming a long way in maintaining his sobriety.

"With your graduation today, you are again earning respect from the [DORE] team," the judge said.

Norita started participating DORE Program in December 2017.

Manglona said she remembers that Norita got started

with the program on the wrong foot and it was only during the third session when he first started to earn credit.

Manglona said Norita had a major setback and had another setback early this year.

The judge said Norita had 10 months of sobriety and was ready to graduate when "disaster" happened. Yet the DORE team never gave up on Norita, Manglona said. "You earned my respect and I hope you maintain that," the judge told Norita.

In reading his prepared speech, Norita thanked Manglona and the DORE team. He admitted he was not doing well at the start of the program as he had couple of violations.

That only solidified his will to become a better citizen, son, brother, and father, he said.

"I am proud to say that I made it," he said, adding that he will be living the rest of his life to be a better and cleaner person.

In July 2010, the District Court slapped Norita with a 30-month prison term for his conviction of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" and illegal possession of guns.

Norita was placed on six years of supervised release after completing his sentence. He began his supervised release on Nov. 21, 2011. The court revoked his supervised release several times for continued "ice" use and other violations.

and U.S. Attorney's Office. It provides treatment and sanction alternative to address re-integration into the community for non-violent, substance abuse offenders release from federal prison.

## Emergency power outage today

■ Traffic lights affected: Puerto Rico and Navy Hill traffic lights.

■ Water wells to be affected: None

■ Wastewater lifts stations to be affected: None

CUC appreciates the understanding of the community during this emergency outage and will continue to work diligently for better utility services to the CNMI.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationl>). (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DEQ-131**

**SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 07, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"SEDIMENT SAMPLING AT 303(D) LISTED WATERSHED STREAM DISCHARGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2013 CNMI SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. LARRY MAURIN BY EMAIL AT [larrymaurin@becq.gov.mp](mailto:larrymaurin@becq.gov.mp). NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 23, 2019.** RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELI D. CABRERA  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ**

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
RFP NO.: RFP19-GOV-136**

**SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.**

**"MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP IS DUE NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 TO MS. GLENNA SP REYES, VIA E-MAIL TO [glenna.sp.reyes.ao@gmail.com](mailto:glenna.sp.reyes.ao@gmail.com). ALL RESPONSES TO THIS RFP SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL POTENTIAL PROPOSERS.**

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

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**/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES  
GOVERNOR**

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**

**/S/ GLENNA SP REYES  
SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**08/30/2019**

**Notice for Public Comment**

**Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds**

| Program Year/<br>IDIS No.: | Program: | Activity Name:  | Subrecipient:                          | Approved Budget:    | Proposed Reprogramming Amount: | Proposed Revised Project Budget: | Current IDIS Funded Amount: |
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/s/ Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

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**\$13.95**  
BETTER CHEF  
SANDWICH  
MAKER (WHITE)

**\$99.95**  
BLACK & DECKER XL DIGITAL  
CONVECTION OVEN

**\$4.95**  
ESSENTIAL HOME  
BATH TOWELS

**\$10.95**  
HOMZ 18GAL  
STORAGE TOTE

**\$139.95**  
MATTRESS QUEEN SIZE  
153X203X19CM

**\$39.95**  
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TOP COOLER

**\$39.95**  
HOOVER STEAMSCRUB  
PRO STEAM MOP

**\$15.95**  
BETTER CHEF  
16" DISH RACK  
(BLUE)

**\$44.95**  
ELITE 6QT 6IN1  
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REFURBISHED

**\$21.95**  
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GLASS CORDLESS  
KETTLE

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HAMILTON BEACH  
950W ELECTRONIC  
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BLACK & DECKER  
7/14C RICE  
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LG 5,000 BTU  
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MATTRESS  
FULL SIZE  
135X190X19CM

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CRAFTSMAN  
2.5 GALLON  
WET/DRY VACUUM

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ELICO - 9.5" MOD  
ERA LIGHT METAL  
CLOCKS ROUND

**\$7.95**  
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43.5 X 32CM  
44.5C 62.5CM

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STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 11AM-8PM • SATURDAY 9AM-8PM • SUNDAY 11AM-6PM • FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL: 322-0430

# FHA awards DPW \$4.2M in Yutu relief funds

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration recently awarded the CNMI Department of Public Works \$4,269,064 in emergency relief funds that has been approved and authorized for highway projects on Saipan and Tinian arising from Super Typhoon Yutu damage.

This include repairs of various traffic signal systems, pedestrian flashers, school zone flashers, traffic signs, pavement markings, pathway railings, pathway lighting and posts, perimeter fencing, walkway concrete pavement, road pavement, road washouts, and includes funding for resilience structures for the main traffic signal post.

"Our DPW highway engineers and inspectors conducted and compiled a thorough and comprehensive Disaster Damage Inspection Report that included detailed data coordinates, pictures, and cost

estimate, which was then sent to our federal highway partners for approval. It took some time for FHWA to authorize the emergency relief funds but now, with the approval, DPW can now proceed with the necessary and ongoing repairs to restore many of our damaged infrastructure from...Yutu," said Public Works Secretary James A. Ada.

He credits Boday Borres, FHWA territorial representative in Hawaii, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and DPW and government staff for securing the funding.

Torres said the grant reflects the administration's commitment to restoring damaged public infrastructure within the CNMI's major highways.

"We are very pleased that FHWA has approved our damage report and awarded the emergency relief funding. This will go a long way in terms of fixing many of

our damaged infrastructure in and around our highways so that our roads are resilient and driving and commuting is safer. Special thanks to FHWA, our federal partners, Secretary Ada, and his hardworking team for truly being on the road again," said Torres.

Palacios noted that the grant will address many critical issues and problems on CNMI roads that incurred damage.

"Since the beginning of the recovery, the administration has put forward priorities to make sure that we repair our damaged traffic signs, signals, and lights, while also paving our highways and roads. With the emergency relief funds from FHWA, our good staff at DPW will be on the road again, pushing forward restoration projects so that our roads and traffic fixtures are not only back to pre-Yutu conditions, but even stronger for the future," Palacios added. (PR)

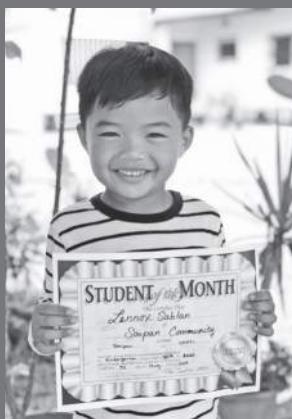


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## 45TH ANNIVERSARY GIVEAWAY

To mark its 45th anniversary, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019. In this photo, Pacifica Insurance marketing coordinator Samantha Sikayun, right, presents Jose Manibusan with a car service gift certificate. Manibusan will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to [www.pacificains.com/45years](http://www.pacificains.com/45years).

## SCS names August Students of the Month



The Student of the Month for Kindergarten is Lennox Sablan, who is a self-motivated and focused learner. He has become a class leader and is a kind and loving friend to all his classmates. We are very proud of you, Lennox! Keep up the great work!



Iyani Muña is the SCS Student of the Month for Grade 1. She is described as a hardworking student who puts forth great effort in all that she does. She is a kind, sweet friend and is always willing to help her teachers and classmates. We're so lucky to have a rock star like Iyani in our first grade class!



Micaela Tenorio is very deserving of SCS's 2nd Grade Student of the Month for August 2019. Tenorio is a respectful and well-mannered student who gets along well with all of her classmates. She is highly attentive to instructions and works diligently during class time to complete her assignments. Tenorio demonstrates a positive attitude, patience with others, and perseverance while at school everyday. Congratulations Micaela!

The SCS August 2019 Student of the Month for 3rd Grade is Alleena Vilaluz, who provides the 3rd Grade class with a positive role model for all to follow. She actively participates, readily helps others, always tries her best and perseveres through difficult assignments. We are very pleased and honored to have such a wonderful new student this school year!



From the SCS Grade 4 family, we would like to announce one of our students who has given their very best for this month: Annabella Tedula. She has shown extreme diligence in each assigned task. Tedula has also been working very hard in her studies, demonstrates responsibility, and is respectful to her peers/teachers. One characteristic which makes her shine even brighter is the warm smile she wears every single day. When school starts in the morning, you can just feel the positivity radiate from her smile—and that is a characteristic which each student (not only in the fourth grade, but also the



entire SCS family) can emulate from. Great work, Annabella!

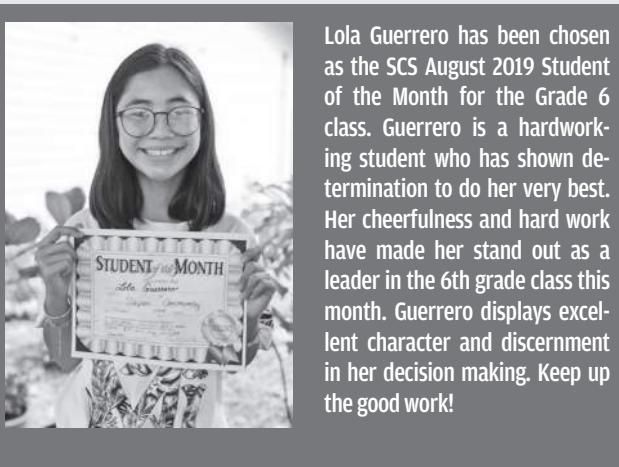
Leo Kim is our SCS Grade 5 Student of the Month for August 2019. Kim has been a great leader in the classroom. He has shown this by his diligence, his willingness to ask good questions, his ability to help those around him, and his classwork being completed at an exceptional level. Kim has been an amazing example of a 5th grade student. Keep up the great work!



The SCS Grade 7 Student of the Month for August 2019 is Mikaela Rabago! We are proud to recognize Rabago for her wonderful attitude and great class participation. Rabago is also chosen because of her commitment to academic excellence. She is encouraging and helpful to other students, especially when they are struggling. Keep shining your light, Mikaela!



We are excited to announce Paul William DLG Camacho II as our SCS Grade 8 Student of the Month for August 2019. Camacho has been an excellent example to all and continues to grow as a great leader. He is being recognized for his character, his kindness, and sense of humor. Camacho is appreciated for the joy he brings his teachers and classmates. Congratulations, Paul, we are proud of you! (PR)



Lola Guerrero has been chosen as the SCS August 2019 Student of the Month for the Grade 6 class. Guerrero is a hardworking student who has shown determination to do her very best. Her cheerfulness and hard work have made her stand out as a leader in the 6th grade class this month. Guerrero displays excellent character and discernment in her decision making. Keep up the good work!



# Public warned of dangerous surf conditions, flooding

The public is being alerted to hazardous surf that is projected to remain dangerous through Friday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Opera-

tions Center State Warning Point, a southwest monsoon swell is building across the Marianas as a monsoon trough near Guam continues to lift northward, bringing surf to hazardous levels near noon along south and west facing reefs.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Friday and there is high risk of rip currents through Friday afternoon. A small craft advisory also remains in effect until 6pm Friday.

The NWS has also issued a flood advisory for Tinian and

Saipan. Doppler radar and satellite imagery indicated heavy rain of 2 to 3 inches is possible over both islands. This rain could produce minor flooding, especially in areas of poor drainage.

A flood advisory means river or stream flows are el-

evated, or ponding of water in urban or other areas is occurring or is imminent.

The public is being advised to turn around when encountering flooded roads. Most flood deaths occur in vehicles.

Surf will build to hazardous levels of 8 to 10 feet along

south-facing reefs and 7 to 9 feet along west-facing reefs and will continue through Friday. Similarly, dangerous rip currents are expected along south- and west-facing reefs through Friday.

The large surf will produce localized beach erosion and dangerous conditions for swimmers and beach goers.

Winds will increase to between 20 and 25 knots and persist through Thursday. Combined seas will build to between 8 and 10 feet and could build another 1 to 2 feet today, Thursday, before subsiding Friday.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing out along south- and west-facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening.

There is a high risk of rip currents. If you become caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against the current as you will tire quickly. Heed the advice of lifeguards.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are advised to avoid sailing in these conditions. (PR)

## MLSG renews emerald sponsorship of Green Gala



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Legal Strategy Group LLC partners Sean Frink and Marcia Schultz, MLSG partners, and counsel Catherine Cachero are joined by their staff and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance management and rangers.

Marianas Legal Strategy Group, LLC is once again an emerald sponsor of this year's Green Gala of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance. The gala will be held on Sept. 13 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

This year's gala will feature MINA's "Bring Back Our Trees" campaign, as

well as the annual Green Awards that honor the Green Business of the Year, Environmental Champion, and Environmental Heroes to celebrate the accomplishments of the community's efforts in conservation.

MINA's programs include marine debris prevention programs, Schools for Envi-

ronmental Conservation, tree planting, and the Tasi Watch Program.

The event for this year is completely sold out. Doors open at 6pm, and overflow parking is available to guests at American Memorial Park with free shuttle service to the Fiesta between the hours of 5pm and 7pm. (PR)

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) Civil Case No. 19-0236C  
IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE ESTATE OF: ) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Deceased. )  
JUAN SANTOS BLAS,

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: JUAN SANTOS BLAS, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of BENNY LYNN C. CAMACHO for the issuance of the letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 26th day of September, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Benny Lynn C. Camacho, PMB 204 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 785-8820/ (670) 256-1623.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JUAN SANTOS BLAS, or his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) Civil Case No. 19-0237C  
IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE ESTATE OF: ) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Deceased. )  
PEDRO SANTOS BLAS,

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: PEDRO SANTOS BLAS, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of BENNY LYNN C. CAMACHO for the issuance of the letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 26th day of September, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Benny Lynn C. Camacho, PMB 204 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 785-8820/ (670) 256-1623.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, PEDRO SANTOS BLAS, or his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) Civil Case No. 19-0243  
IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE ESTATE OF: ) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Deceased. )  
JOSEPHINE LIFOIFOI TAJIBMAI,

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: JOSEPHINE LIFOIFOI TAJIBMAI, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of SEBASTIAN TAJIBMAI for the issuance of the letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 26th day of September, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact Pro Se Petitioner, Sebastian TAJIBMAI, PO Box 501464 Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 286-1785/ (670) 785-0470.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, JOSEPHINE LIFOIFOI TAJIBMAI, or her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



## NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals and Priorities for fiscal year 2019 as follows:

### Statement of Goals and Priorities [Fiscal Year 2020]

**GOAL 1: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI will provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.**

**Priority 1.1:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI will facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for (at least one more than FY 2019) eligible individuals with disabilities in the community.

**Priority 1.2:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

**Priority 1.3:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

**GOAL 2: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will advance the understanding of and appreciation for protection & advocacy services and other disability-related issues in the CNMI.**

**Priority 2.1:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

**Priority 2.2:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

**Priority 2.3:** In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

**GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.**

**Priority 3.1:** Maintain an efficient, effective, and legally-compliant administrative operation.

**Priority 3.2:** Maintain an effective, diverse, and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

**Priority 3.3:** Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

To submit comments and/or suggestions, please contact **NMPASI** at 235-7273/4 or at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org)

\*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Inviting the Taliban to Camp David was a mistake. Suspending talks altogether is a bigger one

It's probably good news that President Donald Trump smothered his over-the-top-as-usual plan for a summit meeting with the Taliban and the president of Afghanistan at the presidential retreat in Camp David. The seeming assumption behind it—that Trump the brilliant dealmaker could get the antagonists to come to terms in a dramatic denouement—was flawed from the start.

But in revealing on Twitter that he had considered and then canceled the summit, Trump went further and suspended negotiations entirely between the United States and the Taliban. That was a mistake.

Those talks have produced a draft agreement under which the U.S. would expedite the withdrawal of some 5,400 troops by next spring and the Taliban would commit not to provide a haven for Al Qaeda or other terrorist groups. Then, U.S. officials hoped, the Taliban would enter direct negotiations with the government in Kabul on a political settlement—one that ideally would commit the Taliban, as a condition of sharing power, to respecting the advancements in women's rights that have been achieved since it was driven from power. It's a long shot, to be sure; there's no guarantee that the Taliban would abide by its promises. But given the U.S.' limited options after 18 years of engagement in Afghanistan, it's worth a try.

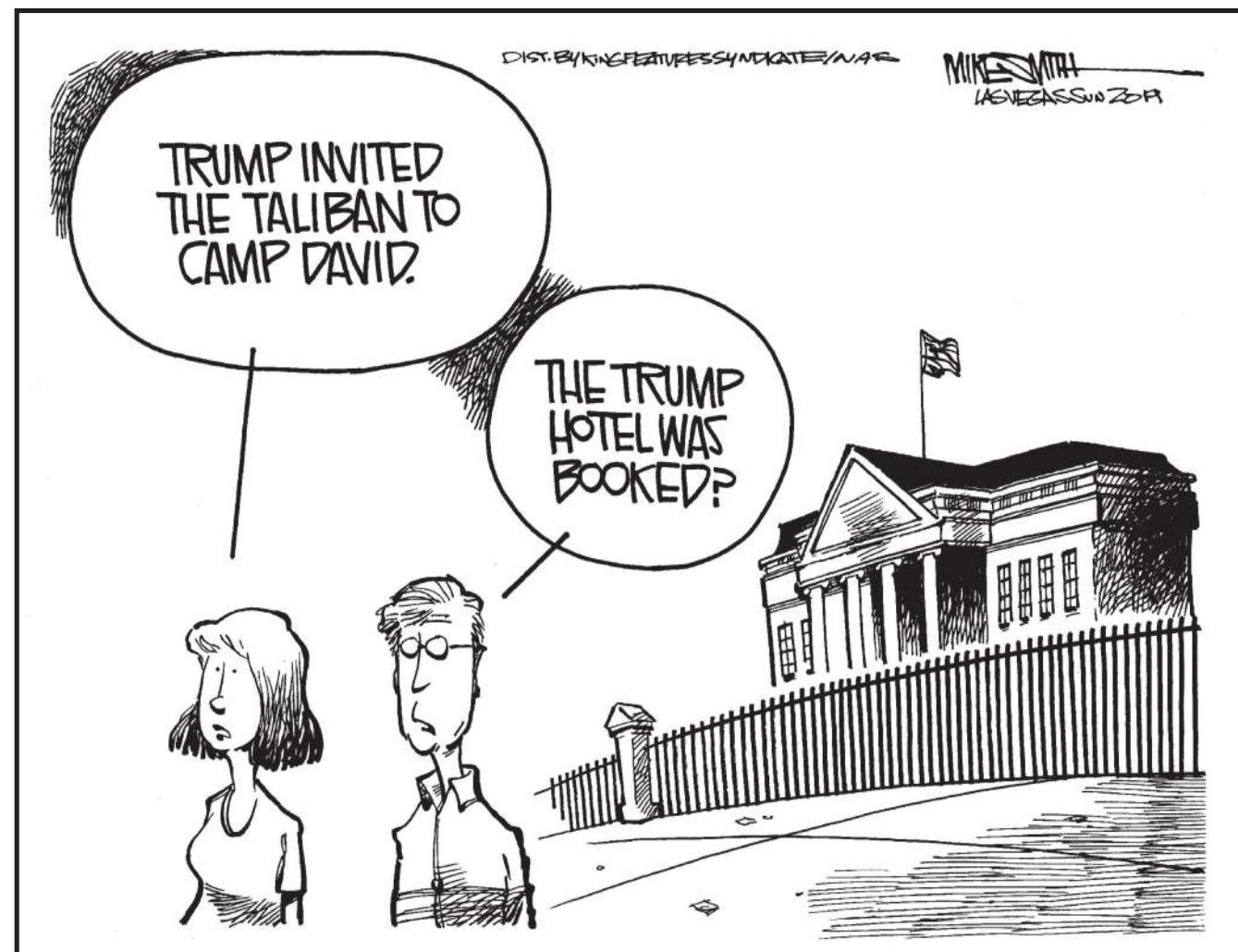
However, on Monday Trump doubled down, telling reporters that the talks between the U.S. and the Taliban are "dead as far as I'm concerned."

In his Twitter posts on Saturday, Trump said that he aborted the meeting because the Taliban, in what he described as an attempt to "build false leverage," had staged a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul that killed 12 people including a U.S. soldier. "I immediately canceled the meeting and called off peace negotiations," Trump tweeted. "What kind of people would kill so many in order to seemingly strengthen their bargaining position?"

The death of Army Sgt. 1st Class Elis Angel Barreto Ortiz, who was killed in the Kabul bombing, is a tragedy and proof that the Taliban has continued to engage in violence even as its representatives have been negotiating with the U.S. But that could hardly have come as news to the president. Ortiz was the 16th U.S. service member to die in Afghanistan in 2019. The U.S. reached out to the Taliban in 2018 and serious negotiations began in Qatar in January. Despite U.S. fatalities in attacks attributed to the Taliban, the talks have proceeded.

That fuels speculation that the president aborted the summit meeting for other reasons. The Taliban has said that its

**See INVITING on Next Page**



## Without Bolton, Trump can now go soft on Iran

President Donald Trump's decision to part ways with his national security adviser, John Bolton, was overdetermined. They disagreed on Afghanistan. They differed on North Korea. There was tension between them over Venezuela. They couldn't even agree on whether Bolton quit or was fired.

Their most significant dispute, however, was on Iran. Bolton favored completely abandoning the 2015 nuclear deal negotiated under former President Barack Obama and pressed for maximum pressure on Iran's leaders. Along with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Bolton helped persuade Trump earlier this year to retain a U.S. military presence in Syria to counter Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Trump has supported maximum pressure, but he has also flirted lately with diplomacy. At the Group of Seven meeting in France last month, the president pared down his administration's initial 12 conditions for lifting sanctions on Iran to just three. While he has always left the door open to talks, Trump has been musing about this idea more openly and more frequently. It nearly happened at the G-7, when Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif was invited to the summit by French President Emmanuel Macron. Bolton, senior U.S. officials told me, learned about his visit from the Israelis.

The prospect of Trump meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani came up at a news briefing Tuesday with Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. When asked if Trump could meet with Rouhani later this month at the U.N. General Assembly, Pompeo said: "Sure. The president has made it very clear: He is prepared to meet with no preconditions."

To date, the Iranians have not agreed to any kind of meeting. Zarif has said the U.S. must lift sanctions before such a parley. Rouhani offered Obama—who pursued an accord with Iran throughout most of his presidency—only a brief phone call.

Nonetheless, Bolton's exit could pave the way for the Trump dream of a U.S.-Iran summit. Zarif himself has made Bolton the centerpiece of his propaganda campaign. He blamed Bolton, but not Trump, for the increased tensions between his country

**By ELI LAKE**

Bloomberg News

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast and covered national security and intelligence for the Washington Times, the New York Sun and UPI.



and America, and Zarif's allies in Washington have already applauded the end of the Bolton era. On Tuesday, the president of the National Iranian American Council Tuesday praised

Trump. "We congratulate President Donald Trump on what may become the best decision of his Presidency," said Jamal Abdi. "This single move dramatically reduces the chances of a new, catastrophic war in the Middle East."

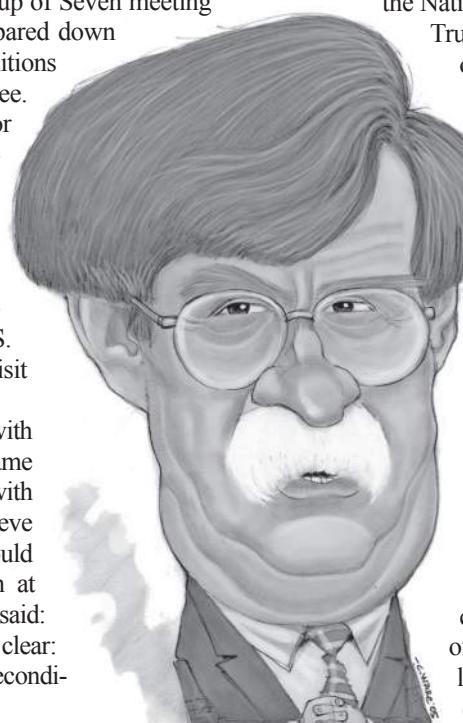
Trump has heard this argument from elements of the right as well. Fox News host Tucker Carlson ranted in June that Bolton was a "bureaucratic tapeworm."

Republican senator Rand Paul has offered his services as a back channel to Iran to help establish negotiations.

Of course it's preposterous to argue that Bolton, who served Trump for less than a year and a half, is responsible for U.S. tensions with a country that has been attacking American citizens and soldiers for 40 years. The issue is what the U.S. should do about this state of hostilities.

That's why Trump's frustrations with Bolton count as ironic. In 2017, the president held a series of meetings with Bolton to get his perspective on leaving the Iran nuclear deal—undercutting General H.R. McMaster, who was then serving as his national security adviser. McMaster wanted to keep the deal and pressure European allies to help renegotiate it and make it stronger.

Now it appears that Trump has buyer's remorse. While he would never acknowledge it, Trump is basically pushing for a bargain very similar to the one that he criticized Obama for negotiating. Trump is free to appoint a national security adviser who shares his new position—and whoever takes the job will be safe until the president inevitably changes his mind.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## 9/11 led me to Syria, Afghanistan and national service

I watched the Twin Towers collapse on a tiny television in my English classroom at The Park School in Baltimore County. I was 17. I called military recruiters that week.

Like so many Americans, that day triggered a lifetime of pursuing service for the common good. I felt that shared desire to serve in my high school classroom and have continued to feel that same pull to service on Sept. 11th ever since.

In response to my outreach to military recruiters, my parents persuaded me to anchor my pursuit of service in education. Determined to understand the roots of the attacks, I went to college to study Arabic and Middle East history.

On Sept. 11, 2006, I was in Syria, teaching English to Iraqi refugees. From Damascus, I saw how poorly the war was being managed in Baghdad. I could also see that if we got it wrong in Iraq, the violence would spill over into Syria and elsewhere. That experience led me to join the U.S. Army when I returned home.

By Sept. 11, 2010, I was in Afghanistan, serving in the Army Rangers on the first of my four combat deployments there. We tracked and captured leaders of al-Qaeda, the Taliban and other terror groups.

My military service, especially in Afghanistan, showed me what is possible when Americans from different walks of life join together in service to tackle shared problems. Our different experiences, when fused, yielded better ideas. It was our job to run toward problems—a value shared by Army Rangers as well as alums of civilian national service programs like Habitat for Humanity, Teach for America and Public Allies.

On Sept. 11, 2011, some of my fellow Rangers and I participated in an on-field ceremony before the Baltimore Ravens routed the Pittsburgh Steelers in the season opener in Baltimore. For a few brief hours, the sense of shared purpose in the stadium felt like the national unity in the months following the 9/11 attacks. One of my Rangers requested to reenlist right then and there in the stadium.

Flash forward to Sept. 11, 2018. I was running for Congress in my home state of Maryland. While we built a coalition that extended from a Bernie Sanders chapter to a member of President George W. Bush's cabinet, the campaign trail in 2018 offered a front row seat to the deep divides that are tearing apart our civic fabric. It was a glimpse into the dystopian future our country might face if we don't invest in solutions that unite us.

This year on Sept. 11th, I'm serving as the CEO of Service Year Alliance, a nonprofit whose mission is to give every young American the opportunity of national service—whether that's in the Marine Corps, Peace Corps, California Conservation Corps or any other service year organization.

### INVITING

From Page 10

negotiators would have traveled to the U.S. only after an agreement with the U.S. was announced and would meet only with U.S. officials, which rules out a summit with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. Canceling the summit also meant that Trump didn't have to choose between Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, who has been supportive of the negotiations, and national security advisor John Bolton, who is more skeptical.

That, in turn, raises another question: whether on this issue, as on other foreign-policy matters such as negotiations with North Korea, the administration has a coherent and consistent view and the competence to achieve it.

Last month Trump said he would reduce the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan from 14,000 to 8,600 and didn't link the withdrawal to an agreement with the Taliban. On Sunday Pompeo suggested on "Meet the Press" that there would be no U.S. withdrawal unless the violence in Afghanistan was reduced and the U.S. could be assured that the country wouldn't again serve as the staging ground for a terrorist attack on the U.S. (American troops were deployed to Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks because the Taliban government provided a haven for Al Qaeda.)

After almost two decades of U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan, Trump was right to engage the Taliban in negotiations and to seek to reduce the number of U.S. troops. But the fiasco of the canceled summit meeting is a reminder, far from the first one, that this president lacks the competence and consistency necessary to successfully pursue any foreign-policy objective.

If the past 18 years have taught me anything, it's that national service—whether military, civilian or public—not only allows us to address some of our biggest shared challenges at home and abroad, but also represents one of the last, best hopes to inoculate our country against the divisions threatening our future.

That's why I am excited about Serve America Together—a campaign to make national service part of growing up in America. We need to focus on our common values and what we can do better, together. Making opportunities to serve available to all young Americans will create the connective tissue the nation needs.

As the Democratic presidential candidates prepare for the next debate Thursday night, I urge them to consider how they can bring to life the feelings of connectedness I've experienced on 9/11 over the years. I encourage them to accept the Serve America Together presidential challenge and release their plans to expand national service—an idea that will unite our country in

By JESSE COLVIN

The Baltimore Sun

Jesse Colvin ([jcolvin@serviceyear.org](mailto:jcolvin@serviceyear.org)) is the CEO of Service Year Alliance. He is an Army Ranger, intelligence officer and former congressional candidate in Maryland's 1st district.



service and bridge deep divides.

I'm hopeful that by Sept. 11, 2021—20 years after my initial call to serve—the next president will be well on the way to making national service an opportunity for all, and Americans will once again feel inspired to serve alongside millions of their fellow citizens.

## When talking to your doctor about care, cost should be part of the conversation

For three decades I've worked with people who are aging or chronically ill, helping them figure out how the heck they are going to pay for old age or serious illness. One of the issues that's gotten markedly worse during this time is financial toxicity—that is, the economic burden that too often accompanies the diagnosis of a dread or terminal disease. I see this most often with people battling cancer.

Well, as often happens in life, I recently found the proverbial shoe on the other foot when my mother was diagnosed with cancer. Thankfully, her prognosis is pretty good, and she has some resources and a great support system.

As we sat talking with medical pros in Baltimore regarding the best course of treatment, side effects, outcomes and alternatives, I segued from son Scott to professional Scott, asking questions I so often try to help strangers answer. To say Mom's doctors were taken aback is an understatement.

They were polite and professional, yet clearly not used to someone saying, "So, OK, what's the price tag for all of this, and how much of that do you expect to end up being the patient's responsibility?"

We all want to say, "Give us your best, spare no expense," but the reality is that medical expenses can easily stress a family, and far too many face financially difficult choices and even bankruptcy.

Take this one example: There are different grades of cancer treatments, and many insurance companies are only approving the lowest grade of treatment; if you want the best treatments, you may have to pay for it yourself. And anyone who wants to pursue alternative, experimental or especially, integrative treatments is often left to finance all or most of the treatment on their own.

Nearly 66% of cancer patients express interest in talking with their doctors about the costs associated with cancer treatments, according to the National Cancer Institute ([cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov)). On the flip side, that same source says less than half of oncologists and 27% of cancer patients report actually having had those cost-

By SCOTT PAGE

The Baltimore Sun

Scott Page is CEO of LifeGuide Partners and writes and speaks regularly about retirement and financial issues facing seniors and people dealing with serious illness. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.



related discussions.

Medical bills are one of the most unpredictable and unavoidable expenses. According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in five American adults struggles to pay medical bills, and 10 million adult Americans face medical bills they can't pay each year despite having health insurance.

The increasing of average life spans also brings the irony of more chances for us to face illness. So, financial toxicity not only is here to stay, it's going to get worse. It may not bankrupt you, but the psychological stress alone is a side effect no one's mom—or other loved one—should have to deal with.



According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in five American adults struggles to pay medical bills, and 10 million adult Americans face medical bills they can't pay each year despite having health insurance.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

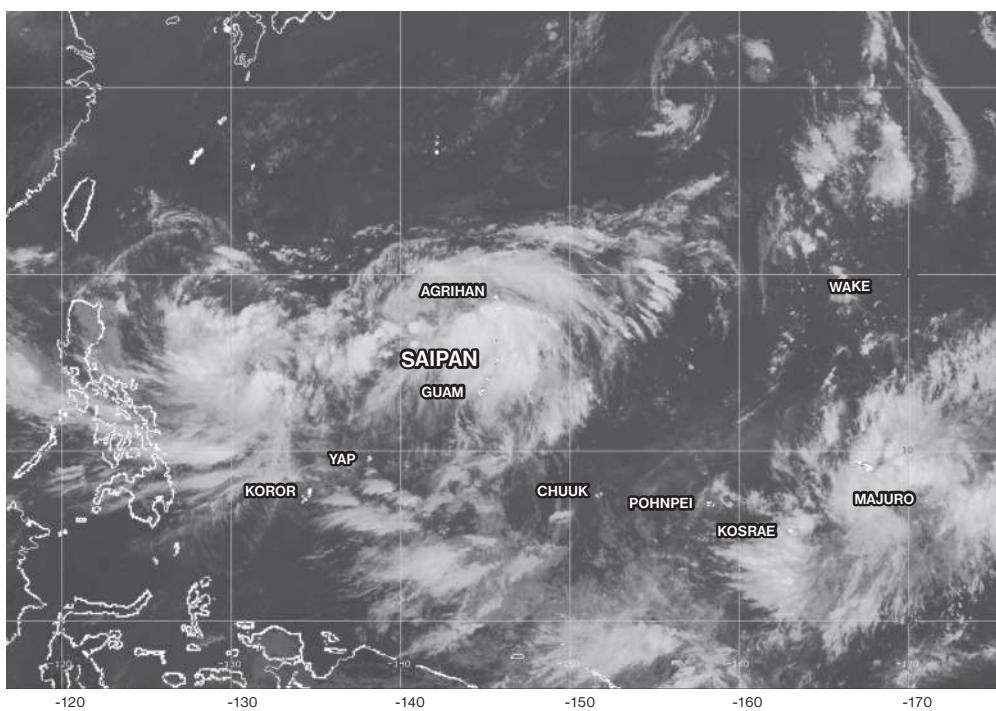
Still with the U.S. health care system pay model expected to be relatively static for now, I would encourage patients and, especially, their loved ones to not be shy about having the cost-of-care conversations, among themselves and with medical providers. On the flip side, I would ask medical pros to be open to the financial questions and challenges major medical treatment naturally and increasingly bring.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY   | SUNDAY   | MONDAY   |
|---|--|--|--|--|
|   |  |  |  |  |
| Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. | Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. |
| 84°   | 77°  | 84°  | 77°  | 84°  |
| 77°   | 84°  | 77°  | 84°  | 77°  |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 8:40 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers are seen across Rota, Tinian and Saipan, with isolated showers over Guam. Numerous showers are seen just north and just southeast of the coastal waters. Mostly cloudy skies with moderate to fresh winds prevail across the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

| MICRONESIA    |               | ▲   | ▼ | °F  |
|---------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorm  | 85° | / | 79° |
| Palau         | Windy         | 85° | / | 79° |
| Yap           | Thunderstorm  | 86° | / | 80° |
| Chuuk         | Thunderstorm  | 83° | / | 78° |
| Pohnpei       | Thunderstorm  | 84° | / | 76° |
| Kosrae        | Thunderstorm  | 84° | / | 76° |
| Majuro        | Partly Cloudy | 86° | / | 82° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE |               | ▲   | ▼ | °F  |
|------------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Auckland         | Partly Cloudy | 61° | / | 50° |
| Beijing          | Cloudy        | 75° | / | 59° |
| Hong Kong        | Mostly Sunny  | 90° | / | 82° |
| Honolulu         | Partly Cloudy | 91° | / | 78° |
| London           | Partly Cloudy | 75° | / | 54° |
| Los Angeles      | Sunny         | 85° | / | 66° |
| Manila           | Thunderstorm  | 84° | / | 77° |
| Melbourne        | Mostly Cloudy | 64° | / | 46° |
| Miami            | Partly Cloudy | 85° | / | 79° |
| New York         | Showers       | 79° | / | 64° |
| Osaka            | Partly Cloudy | 88° | / | 73° |
| Paris            | Cloudy        | 77° | / | 57° |
| Busan            | Mostly Sunny  | 81° | / | 70° |
| Rome             | Sunny         | 88° | / | 64° |
| Salem            | Sunny         | 95° | / | 69° |
| San Francisco    | Sunny         | 76° | / | 55° |
| Seoul            | Partly Cloudy | 81° | / | 64° |
| Tokyo            | Partly Cloudy | 79° | / | 66° |
| Washington, DC   | Partly Cloudy | 94° | / | 71° |



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET |           |      |  |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|--|
| 12:57 AM                        | LOW TIDE  | 1.00 |  |
| 6:03 AM                         | HIGH TIDE | 1.73 |  |
| 12:56 PM                        | LOW TIDE  | 0.15 |  |
| 7:36 PM                         | HIGH TIDE | 1.81 |  |

| DAY      | SUNRISE | SUNSET  |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today    | 6:05 AM | 6:21 PM |
| Friday   | 6:05 AM | 6:20 PM |
| Saturday | 6:05 AM | 6:19 PM |
| Sunday   | 6:05 AM | 6:19 PM |
| Monday   | 6:05 AM | 6:18 PM |

| DAY      | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today    | -        | 4:18 AM | 5:18 PM  |
| Friday   | -        | 5:07 AM | 5:57 PM  |
| Saturday | -        | 5:54 AM | 6:34 PM  |
| Sunday   | -        | 6:41 AM | 7:11 PM  |
| Monday   | -        | 7:28 AM | 7:47 PM  |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

| DEPARTURES             |        |         |                  | ARRIVALS               |         |           |                  |
|------------------------|--------|---------|------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)      |        |         |                  | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN      |         |           |                  |
| UA117                  | 9:15am | 9:57am  | Daily            | UA174                  | 7:30am  | 8:07am    | Daily            |
| UA105                  | 6:25pm | 7:05pm  | 2, 4             | UA104                  | 4:50pm  | 5:31pm    | 2, 4             |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)     |        |         |                  | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                  |
| 7C3451                 | 3:30am | 6:30am  | 4                | 7C3452                 | 9:05pm  | 2:10am+1  | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3451                 | 3:10am | 6:10am  | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 7C3452                 | 9:35pm  | 2:30am+1  | 3                |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)     |        |         |                  | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN     |         |           |                  |
| TW308                  | 1:35am | 5:20am  | Daily            | 7C3402                 | 9:30am  | 3:10pm    | Daily            |
| OZ626                  | 2:20am | 6:00am  | 1                | TW307                  | 7:00pm  | 12:35am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ626                  | 2:50am | 6:30am  | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | TW307                  | 7:05pm  | 12:35am+1 | 1                |
| 7C3403                 | 4:45am | 8:35am  | 1, 2, 3, 5, 7    | OZ625                  | 7:40pm  | 1:10am+1  | 7                |
| 7C3403                 | 5:00am | 8:30am  | 4                | OZ625                  | 8:15pm  | 1:45am+1  | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3403                 | 5:00am | 8:50am  | 6                | 7C3404                 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1  | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7    |
| 7C3401                 | 4:10pm | 7:45pm  | 4, 7             | 7C3404                 | 10:40pm | 4:10am+1  | 3, 5             |
| 7C3401                 | 4:10pm | 8:10pm  | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6    |                        |         |           |                  |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)  |        |         |                  | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN  |         |           |                  |
| 3U8648                 | 6:10am | 8:50am  | 1, 4, 5, 7       | 3U8647                 | 10:30pm | 4:30am+1  | 3, 4, 6, 7       |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)  |        |         |                  | HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN  |         |           |                  |
| JD396                  | 7:30am | 12:05pm | 1                | JD395                  | 8:05am  | 3:30pm    | 4                |
| JD396                  | 4:50pm | 7:55pm  | 4                | JD395                  | 8:50pm  | 5:00am+1  | 7                |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) |        |         |                  | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN |         |           |                  |
| 3U8646                 | 4:30am | 7:50am  | 2, 6             | 3U8645                 | 8:10pm  | 3:10am+1  | 1, 5             |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)   |        |         |                  | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN   |         |           |                  |
| MU764                  | 1:30am | 6:00am  | 3, 5, 7          | MU763                  | 4:50pm  | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6          |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)    |        |         |                  | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN    |         |           |                  |
| OZ626/701              | 2:20am | 11:05am | 1 via ICN        | OZ702/625              | 12:15pm | 1:10am+1  | 7 via ICN        |
| OZ626/701              | 2:50am | 11:05am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6    |                        |         |           |                  |

# DCRM to assess capacity of NMII's tourist sites

The Division of Coastal Resources Management under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will be assessing the capacity of tourism sites in the CNMI to absorb crowds to ensure that these sites are protected.

Considering tourism is the CNMI's primary economic driver, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said it is critical that the CNMI work to make informed, data-driven decisions when developing carrying capacities for

the Marianas' tourist sites.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Barometer's August 2017 report, the CNMI is the third fastest growing tourism destination in the world. The Marianas Visitors Authority reported tourist arrivals of 607,593 in fiscal year 2018 and 653,150 in fiscal year 2017.

Torres noted that while the numbers bolster the CNMI economy, it is equally important to promote sustainable

tourism development and management. He pointed out that user-conflict is always an issue at popular tourist sites like the Grotto.

"To successfully implement tourism fees at sites, setting up fee structure frameworks and investigating tourists' willingness-to-pay is integral to ensuring the CNMI is efficiently utilizing a potential revenue stream and enabling sustainable tourism practices,"

Torres said.

DCRM director Janice Castro said the user capacity assessments is a component of its Sustainable Sites project, which started in August.

"This includes identifying how much a visitor is willing to pay for our valuable resources, how many users a site can sustainably carry at a time, and recommendations for a sustainable CNMI tourism industry," Castro said.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said the project includes surveying visitor use of tourist sites, evaluating environmental indicators, and capturing visitor satisfaction, and willingness-to-pay.

"Balancing environmental protection and economic viability is always a complex issue, but through input from tourism industry members, our government agencies, and us as policymakers, we can find

the right solutions for these set of problems. The goal ultimately is to preserve our tourism sites for both our residents and visitors for generations to come," Palacios said.

The Sustainable Sites meetings are expected to occur throughout the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. If you have any questions, contact Kelsey McClellan at [kmcclellan@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:kmcclellan@dcrm.gov.mp). For more information, visit DCRM's website at <https://dcrm.gov.mp/current-projects/sustainable-sites/>. (PR)

## Helping CNMI heroes recover



Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director L Leo Pangelinan, left, talks about the screening of *Almost Sunrise*, and the yoga sessions facilitated by its filmmaker, combat veteran Tom Voss, in CNMI last August to help fellow veterans heal. Others in photo are Catherine Attao, TanHoldings vice president for corporate affairs and HR, center, and Jerry Tan, TanHoldings CEO.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN  
[iva\\_maurin@saipantribune.com](mailto:iva_maurin@saipantribune.com)  
 REPORTER

As frontliners during emergencies and disasters, first responders often expose themselves to traumatic situations. They also need help. It is estimated that 30% of first responders develop behavioral health conditions, like post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

The hazards that first responders face is at the forefront of the Field of Heroes initiative of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. It is not only meant to commemorate the events of 9/11 but also to raise funds to help veterans who are suffering from PTSD.

Voss through his film *Almost Sunrise*. The film is about his journey from Wisconsin to California to raise awareness of the pain of moral injury that many veterans face.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan, who brought the film to Saipan last August, said that moral injury is a different kind of injury that veterans come back with.

"This is when you go to battle and your values are compromised."

Voss, who was here last August to discuss his experiences with fellow veterans, facilitated yoga sessions and breathing technique meditations as a means of healing.

Pangelinan reported that of the 70 veterans who attended Voss' yoga sessions, a fraction came wanting to go further and do a certification course.

"There is a strong interest in this as a form of healing. We want to explore that further, and train people in our community," Pangelinan said. "DPS can have someone trained in yoga, or some other type of healing art. They can teach yoga, meditation, breathing techniques in our community which is what I think our ultimate goal is."

The Humanities Council, through the support of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, is exploring bringing the alternative healing program to Guam.

## Native medicine takes center stage

By IVA MAURIN  
[iva\\_maurin@saipantribune.com](mailto:iva_maurin@saipantribune.com)  
 REPORTER

There has been a renewed global attention and interest in the use of traditional medicine in the last decades, according to a World Health Organization report, and the CNMI could be at the center of this, with its local practice being revived on the island.

Toward this end, the week of Sept. 15-21 has been declared Simānan Åmut Natibu, Sumwóolal Sáfeyal Faluw (Native Medicine Week) as part of the celebration of Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month.

As part of the celebration, the IAO and the Inetnun Åmut yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw will host traditional medicinal workshops on Rota on Sept. 13 and 17, and on Sept. 19 at the IAO Office at Capital Hill, and on Sept. 21 at Paseo de Marianas during the International Festival of Cultures in Garapan.

"Most of us know [traditional medicine] exists in our society. We are starting to lose them," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacio, "but I am very positive that with the organizations coming forth to try to bring this practice back, we can make it strong again in our community."

Palacios praised the initiatives of the Indigenous Affairs Office, the Office of Carolinian Affairs, and the various non-profit organizations that are



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios jointly sign at the Office of the Governor conference room the proclamation that declares Sept. 15-21 as Simānan Åmut Natibu, Sumwóolal Sáfeyal Faluw and Native Medicine Week.

IVA MAURIN



Maigu' Lalu', Gulundrina, and Yetbas Babui are among the medicinal plants on display at the Governor's Office during Tuesday's proclamation of Sept. 15-21 as Native Medicine Week.

IVA MAURIN

## Coalition vs domestic violence seeks Chamber's help

By MARC A. VENUS  
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 REPORTER

The Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is seeking to work with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in protecting employees from sexual and domestic violence.

In a presentation at the Chamber's September meeting last Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall, coalition executive director Maisie Tenorio said that businesses have a

special opportunity to create safe zones for workers in order to avoid any form of violence in the workplace.

She suggested increasing employers' commitment to keep employees safe, as a workplace also is an environment that can be affected by any form of violence.

She said there are laws to punish those who incite violence, particularly Public Law 18-31, or the "The CNMI Anti-Violence Leave Act of 2013," which protects em-

ployees against any form of domestic or sexual violence in a workplace and provides harsher penalties for violators.

In addition, she informed the Chamber about a website on how to protect employees from violence, and how to create policies that can help create a safe working environment. She said the last thing that all employers would want to see is an employee being hurt in a workplace.

"Emotional and mental abuse are more harmful than

physical abuse, as the effects last longer compared to a physical cut," Tenorio said.

The coalition will be observing the month of October as the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and will be holding a number of events throughout the month, including the Purple Walk that honors domestic and sexual violence victims.

For more information about domestic and sexual violence, contact the coalition at (670) 234-3878.

# Business

## Alibaba's Ma steps down as industry faces uncertainty

**BEIJING** (AP)—Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma, who helped launch China's online retailing boom, stepped down as chairman of the world's biggest e-commerce company Tuesday at a time when its fast-changing industry faces uncertainty amid a U.S.-Chinese tariff war.

Ma, one of China's wealthiest and best-known entrepreneurs, gave up his post on his 55th birthday as part of a succession announced a year ago. He will stay on as a member of the Alibaba Partnership, a 36-member group with the right to nominate a majority of the company's board of directors.

Ma, a former English teacher, founded Alibaba in 1999 to connect Chinese exporters to American retailers.

The company has shifted focus to serving China's growing consumer market and expanded into online banking, entertainment and cloud computing. Domestic businesses accounted for 66% of its \$16.7 billion in revenue in the quarter ending in June.

Chinese retailing faces uncertainty amid a tariff war that has raised the cost of U.S. imports.

Growth in online sales decelerated to 17.8% in the first half of 2019 amid slowing



AP  
Jack Ma, founder of the Alibaba Group, speaks at the company's 20th-anniversary celebration in Hangzhou in eastern China's Zhejiang province, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019.

Chinese economic growth, down from 2018's full-year rate of 23.9%.

Alibaba says its revenue rose 42% over a year earlier in the quarter ending in June to \$16.7 billion and profit rose 145% to \$3.1 billion. Still, that was off slightly from 2018's full-year revenue growth of 51%.

The total amount of goods sold across Alibaba's e-commerce platforms rose 25% last year to \$853 billion. By comparison, the biggest U.S. e-commerce company, Amazon.com Inc., reported total sales of \$277 billion.

Alibaba's deputy chairman, Joe Tsai, told reporters in May the company is "on the

right side" of issues in U.S.-Chinese trade talks. Tsai said Alibaba stands to benefit from Beijing's promise to increase imports and a growing consumer market.

Alibaba is one of a group of companies including Ten-

cent Holding Ltd., a games and social media giant, search engine Baidu.com Inc. and e-commerce rival JD.com that have revolutionized shopping, entertainment and consumer services in China.

Alibaba was founded at a

time when few Chinese were online. As internet use spread, the company expanded into consumer-focused retailing and services. Few Chinese used credit cards, so Alibaba created the Alipay online payments system.

Ma, known in Chinese as Ma Yun, appears regularly on television. At an annual Alibaba employee festival in Hangzhou, he has sung pop songs in costumes that have included blond wigs and leather jackets. He pokes fun at his own appearance, saying his oversize head and angular features make him look like the alien in director Steven Spielberg's movie "E.T. The Extraterrestrial."

The company's \$25 billion initial public offering on the New York Stock Exchange in September 2014 was the biggest to date by a Chinese company.

The Hurun Report, which follows China's wealth, estimates Ma's fortune at \$38 billion.

In 2015, Ma bought the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong's biggest English-language newspaper.

## Apple rolls out new streaming TV service for \$5 a month

**CUPERTINO, Calif.** (AP)—Apple is finally taking on Netflix with its own streaming television service and, uncharacteristically for the company, offering it at a bargain price—\$5 a month beginning on Nov. 1.

Walt Disney Co. is launching its own assault on Netflix the same month, for just \$7.

It may be sheer coincidence that the cost of paying for both Apple and Disney subscriptions will still be a dollar less than Netflix's main plan, priced at \$13 a month. But the intent to disrupt Netflix's huge lead in the streaming business couldn't be clearer.

Apple delivered the news Tuesday while also unveiling three new iPhones that won't look much different than last year's models other than boasting an additional camera for taking pictures from extra-wide angles.

The aggressive pricing is unusual for Apple, which typically charges a premium for

products and services to burnish its brand. Most analysts expected Apple to charge \$8 to \$10 per month for the service, which will be called Apple TV Plus.

But Apple is entering a market that Netflix practically created in 2007—around the same time as the first iPhone came out. And Netflix has amassed more than 150 million subscribers, meaning that Apple needed to make a splash.

"You have to expect they're going to do something, considering how hyper competitive the streaming video space is," said Tim Hanlon, CEO of Vertere Group.

Apple CEO Tim Cook did not have much new to say about the TV service beyond its pricing and debut date, although he did show a trailer for a new Jason Momoa-led series called "See."

Netflix declined to comment. In the past, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has depicted

the increased competition as a positive for everyone, allowing consumers to create their own entertainment bundles instead of accepting bundles put together at higher prices by cable and satellite TV services.

Like Netflix and similar services from Amazon and Hulu, Apple has been spending billions of dollars for original programs. The most anticipated so far seems to be "The Morning Show," a comedy starring Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon and Steve Carell. The service will launch with nine original shows and films, with more expected each month. It will only carry Apple's original programming and will be available in 100 countries at launch.

Since it began focusing on exclusive shows and movies six years ago, Netflix has built a huge library of original programming and now spends upward of \$10 billion annually on its lineup.

## Share of uninsured Americans rises for 1st time in a decade

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The proportion of Americans without health insurance edged up in 2018—the first evidence from the government that coverage gains under President Barack Obama's health care law might be eroding under President Donald Trump.

The Census Bureau also said in an annual report Tuesday that household income rose last year at its slowest pace in four years and finally matched its previous peak set in 1999. Median household income increased 0.9% in 2018 to an inflation-adjusted \$63,179, from \$62,626 in 2017.

The data suggest that the current economic expansion, now the longest on record at more than 10 years, is still struggling to provide widespread benefits to the U.S. population. Solid gains in household incomes over the past four years have returned

the median only to where it was two decades ago. And despite strong growth last year in the number of Americans working full time and year-round, the number of people with private health insurance remained flat.

The Census report found that 27.5 million people, 8.5% of the population, lacked health insurance coverage in 2018. That was an increase of 1.9 million uninsured, or 0.5 percentage point.

One bright spot in the report was that the poverty rate fell for a fourth straight year to 11.8%, its lowest point since 2001. The proportion of households led by women that were poor reached a record low.

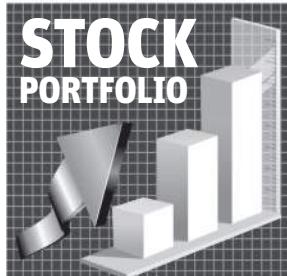
"While any reduction in poverty or increase in income is a step in the right direction, most families have just barely made up the ground lost over the past decade," said Elise

Gould, senior economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute.

Though income inequality narrowed last year, it remains near record levels reached in 2017. Last year, the richest 5% of the U.S. population captured 23% of household income.

Still, steady hiring and an unemployment rate at 3.7%, near a five-decade low, have helped raise earnings for lower-paid workers employed by restaurants, warehouses, shipping firms and other sectors of the economy. This trend has contributed to a decline in poverty.

On health insurance, more people were covered by Medicare, reflecting the aging of baby boomers. But Medicaid coverage declined. The number of uninsured children also rose. And there were more uninsured adults ages 35-64.



### LEADING INDICATORS

| S&P      | DOW       | NASDAQ   |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| 2,979.39 | 26,909.43 | 8,084.16 |
| +0.96    | +73.92    | +46.86   |
| +0.03%   | +0.28%    | +0.60%   |

In U.S. dollar terms

### EXCHANGE RATES

|                   | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.84               | Russian Ruble | 65.43            |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Australian Dollar | 1.46             | Indian Rupee       | 70.97         | Singapore Dollar |
| British Pound     | 0.81             | Japanese Yen       | 107.73        | South Korean Won |
| Canadian Dollar   | 1.31             | Malaysian Ringgit  | 4.13          | Swiss Franc      |
| Chinese Yuan      | 6.99             | New Zealand Dollar | 1.56          | Taiwan Dollar    |
| Euro              | 0.91             | Philippine Peso    | 51.14         | Thailand Baht    |

# Nation

## Trump ousts hawkish Bolton, dissenter on foreign policy

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump on Tuesday abruptly forced out John Bolton, his hawkish national security adviser with whom he had strong disagreements on Iran, Afghanistan and a cascade of other global challenges.

The sudden shake-up marked the latest departure of a prominent voice of dissent from the president's inner circle, as Trump has grown less accepting of advice contrary to his instincts. It also comes at a trying moment for Trump on the world stage, weeks ahead of the United Nations General Assembly and as the president faces pressing decisions on difficult foreign policy issues.

Tensions between Bolton, Trump's third national security adviser, and other officials have flared in recent months over influence in the president's orbit and how to manage his desire to negotiate with some of the world's most unsavory actors. Since joining the administration in the spring of last year, Bolton has espoused skepticism about the president's whirlwind rapprochement with North Korea, and recently has become a vocal internal critic of potential talks between Trump and leaders of Iran and Afghanistan's Taliban.

Bolton also broke with Trump with his vocal condemnation of Russia's global aggressions, and last year he masterminded a quiet campaign inside the administration and with allies abroad to persuade Trump to keep U.S. forces in Syria to counter the remnants of the Islamic State and Iranian influence in the region. Bolton's maneuvering at

the time contrasted with former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' decision to instead resign over Trump's December withdrawal announcement, which has been effectively reversed.

On Twitter Tuesday, Trump and Bolton offered opposing accounts on the adviser's less-than-friendly departure, final shots for what had been a fractious relationship almost from the start.

Trump tweeted that he told Bolton Monday night his services were no longer needed at the White House and Bolton submitted his resignation Tuesday morning. Bolton responded in a tweet of his own that he offered to resign Monday "and President Trump said, 'Let's talk about it tomorrow.'"

Trump explained that he had "disagreed strongly" with many of Bolton's suggestions as national security adviser, "as did others in the administration."

Bolton's letter of resignation, dated Tuesday, was only two sentences long. He wrote: "Dear Mr. President, I hereby resign, effective immediately, as assistant to the president for national security affairs. Thank you for having afforded me this opportunity to serve our country." He signed the letter "Sincerely, John R. Bolton."

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, who had been traveling with Trump Monday, said reports of Bolton's opposition to a now-scraped weekend meeting with the Taliban at Camp David were a "bridge too far" for Trump.

And one Republican familiar with the disagreements between Trump and Bolton



John Bolton, US National Security Advisor, right, is welcomed by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko during their meeting in Minsk, Belarus, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019. AP

said the adviser's opposition to a possible meeting between Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was a precipitating factor. French President Emmanuel Macron has been trying to broker such a meeting, possibly on the sidelines of the upcoming U.N. General Assembly, in hopes of salvaging the international Iran nuclear deal from which Trump withdrew.

"There were many times that Ambassador Bolton and I disagreed. That's to be sure," said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo Tuesday. He added that Trump has been clear that

he is willing to meet with Rouhani "with no preconditions."

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who appeared with Pompeo at the White House, volunteered, "The president's view of the Iraq war and Ambassador Bolton's was very different."

A former Bush administration official, Bolton has championed hawkish foreign policy views dating back to the Reagan administration and became a household name over his vociferous support for the Iraq war as the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. under George W. Bush. Trump initially sup-

ported the 2003 U.S. invasion, but subsequently became a vocal critic.

The Iranian government hailed Bolton's departure, and spokesman Ali Rabiei said it might pave the way for warmer relations. "By dismissal of the biggest supporter of war and economic terrorism, the White House will face less barrier to understand realities of Iran," he said in a tweet. Tehran calls the U.S. sanctions on Iran "economic terrorism."

Pompeo said, "I don't think any leader around the world should make any assumption that because some one of us

departs that President Trump's foreign policy will change in a material way."

Bolton's well-known foreign policy views and harsh rhetoric for U.S. foes had turned him into a convenient boogeyman for the likes of North Korea and Iran, which have assailed him in the media.

His ouster came as a surprise to many in the White House. Just an hour before Trump's tweet, the press office announced that Bolton would join Pompeo and Mnuchin in a briefing on an executive order expanding ways to counter terrorism. He did not.

## 'Rescue of a lifetime': 4 pulled safely from overturned ship

**SAVANNAH, Ga.** (AP)—Four crew members trapped in the bowels of an overturned cargo ship waited for nearly 36 hours in pitch darkness and oven-like heat, perched on pipes and railings above deep water before they were pulled to safety, rescue coordinators said Tuesday.

The South Korean sailors emerged Monday from a hole drilled through the steel-plated hull of the Golden Ray, which flipped onto its side along the Georgia coast. Three of them were found in the engine room after making tapping sounds all night to show they were alive, and to help rescuers pinpoint their location inside the massive vessel. The fourth had to be rescued from a partially submerged control room, trapped behind blast-proof glass that had to be cut with a diamond-tipped tool.

"These guys were in the worst possible conditions you could imagine a human being to be in," said Tim Ferris, president of the salvage company Defiant Marine, which the U.S. Coast Guard called in to help plan and conduct the rescues. "They survived a ship's fire, a ship capsizing, landing on the side 90-degrees in an engine room, not knowing what the conditions were in pitch black darkness."

Ferris told The Associated Press the crewmen had to scramble in the dark along a maze of plumbing and equipment to stay above deep water flooding the 656-foot (200-meter) ship, where everything around them had suddenly gone sideways.

They also endured crushing heat and humidity. As daytime temperatures outside rose into the 90s, he said, the ship's in-

terior approached roughly 150 degrees (65.5 Celsius).

"The temperature in the engine room was hellish," Ferris said. "They were being cooked."

The Golden Ray had just left the Port of Brunswick when it overturned at about 2 a.m. Sunday with more than 4,000 cars and other vehicles in its cargo hold. The cause remains unknown.

The busy automobile port about 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Savannah remained closed Tuesday as the Coast Guard shifted attention to how best to remove the giant vessel and contain any environmental damage.

An oil sheen spotted in the water of St. Simons Sound where the ship overturned was being soaked up by absorbent boom that acts like a string of large cotton balls. The Coast

Guard said there was no indication of leaks from any of the ship's fuel tanks.

"There is pollution. Right now it's limited in scope," Coast Guard Cmdr. Norm Witt said at a news conference Tuesday. However, he said having a large ship lying on its side poses "a significant pollution threat."

Meanwhile, the Coast Guard was working with salvage experts on a plan to remove the ship, an operation Witt said will likely take "weeks, if not months." The port itself could reopen to limited commercial traffic much sooner. Witt said Thursday was possible, though he cautioned there could be delays.

The trapped sailors "had the bare minimum in terms of supplies" before their rescue, Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Luke Clayton. He didn't know their conditions Tuesday.

## US to commemorate 9/11 as its aftermath extends and evolves

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Americans are commemorating 9/11 with mournful ceremonies, volunteering, appeals to "never forget" and rising attention to the terror attacks' extended toll on responders.

A crowd of victims' relatives is expected at ground zero Wednesday, while President Donald Trump is scheduled to join an observance at the Pentagon. Vice President Mike Pence is to speak at the third attack site, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Former President George W. Bush, the commander-in-chief at the time of the 2001 attacks, is due at an afternoon wreath-laying at the Pentagon.

Eighteen years after the deadliest terrorist attack on

American soil, the nation is still grappling with the aftermath at ground zero, in Congress and beyond. The attacks' aftermath is visible from airport security checkpoints to Afghanistan. A rocket exploded at the U.S. embassy as the anniversary began in Afghanistan, where a post-9/11 invasion has become America's longest war.

"People say, 'Why do you stand here, year after year?'" Chundera Epps, a sister of Sept. 11 victim Christopher Epps, said at last year's ceremony at the World Trade Center. "Because soldiers are still dying for our freedom. First responders are still dying and being ill."

"We can't forget. Life won't let us forget," she added.

# Asia

## S. Korea initiating WTO complaint over Japan trade curbs

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—South Korea said Wednesday it will initiate a complaint to the World Trade Organization over Japan's tightened export controls on key materials South Korean companies use to make computer chips and displays.

South Korea, which has accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to retaliate over political disputes, will formally request bilateral consultations with Japan on Wednesday as the first step in the WTO dispute settlement process, said Yoo Myung-hee, a senior official at South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

She said the country is also considering whether to pursue WTO action over Japan's move to delist South Korea as a preferential trade partner.

Japan in July imposed tighter export controls on three chemicals South Korean companies use to produce semiconductors and displays for smartphones and TVs, citing unspecified security concerns over South Korea's export controls on sensitive materials that could be used for military purposes.

The measures, which weeks later were followed by Japan's move to exclude South Korea from its "white list" of countries with fast-track trade status, triggered a full-blown diplomatic row that saw relations sink to a low unseen in decades.

South Korea says Japan's trade measures threaten its export-dependent economy, where many manufacturers rely on materials and parts im-



ported from Japan. It claims Tokyo is retaliating over South Korean court rulings that called for Japanese companies to offer reparations to aging South Korean plaintiffs over World War II forced labor.

Japan insists that all compensation matters were settled when the two countries normalized relations under a 1965 treaty and that the South Korean court rulings go against international law.

"Japan's export restriction

on the three materials were based on political motivation related to rulings by our Supreme Court on forced labor," Yoo said at a news conference. "It was a discriminatory measure that directly targets only our country."

Hiroshige Seko, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry, told reporters in Tokyo he thought hardly any WTO member countries were sympathetic to South Korea's position.

"Regardless, it is clear that our action is consistent with the WTO," he said.

Seko added that Tokyo would study the demands and respond according to the proper WTO procedures.

If Japan accepts South Korea's request, the countries

must hold consultations for a minimum 60 days. If Japan refuses the consultations or if the talks fail, South Korea could request a WTO panel ruling on the dispute. The process usually takes about 15 months but may also last years, said Jeong Hae-seong, a South Korean

South Korea's senior trade official Yoo Myung-hee speaks during a briefing at a government complex in downtown Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019. AP

trade ministry official.

The measures Tokyo introduced in July require Japanese companies to receive case-by-case inspections and approval on the shipments of the three materials to South Korea, which takes up to 90 days, compared to the previous fast-track process that took one or two weeks, South Korean officials said. Yoo said Japan approved the shipments of the materials only three times since the measures took effect on July 4.

Seoul has vowed countermeasures and announced plans to similarly downgrade Japan's trade status and terminate a bilateral military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan that symbolized the countries' three-way security cooperation with the United States in face of North Korea's nuclear threat and China's growing influence.

Following an angry reaction from Washington, Seoul later said it could reconsider its decision to end the military agreement, which remains in effect until November, if Japan relists South Korea as a favored trade partner.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Lam assures investors Hong Kong can rebound from protests

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has told investors at a Belt and Road forum that the semi-autonomous Chinese territory can rebound from months of protests, despite no sign that the unrest will cool down. Lam voiced confidence at Wednesday's forum that rifts can be mended through government plans for dialogue and upholding the so-called "one country, two systems" policy that gives Hong Kong some freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland.

She said Hong Kong's "indomitable resilience" will see the city through the conflict. Lam's promise last week to axe an extradition bill that sparked demonstrations failed to mollify protesters, who are pushing for other demands including democratic reforms and police accountability. The unrest that is threatening Hong Kong's reputation as a global financial hub.

#### Rocket blast at US Embassy in Kabul on 9/11 anniversary

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—A rocket exploded at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan just minutes into Wednesday, the anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the United States, but officials at the compound declared all-clear about an hour later and reported no injuries. A plume of smoke rose over central Kabul shortly after midnight and sirens could be heard. Inside the embassy, employees heard this message over the loudspeaker: "An explosion caused by a rocket has occurred on compound." There was no immediate comment from Afghan officials. The NATO mission, which is nearby, also said no personnel had been injured. It was the first major attack in the Afghan capital since President Donald Trump abruptly called off U.S.-Taliban talks over the weekend, on the brink of an apparent deal to end America's longest war.

#### Thai trade minister says progress made in free trade pact

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific region have made some progress toward completing a long-awaited free trade agreement, and final details are expected to be worked out later this month at talks in Vietnam, a Thai official said Tuesday. Speaking at the end of five days of meetings in Bangkok, Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said progress had been made on technical details, market access and investment in the planned Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. It would cover goods, services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights. The countries negotiating the pact include the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations and six of its dialogue partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India.

## North Korea confirms 2nd test of multiple rocket launcher

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday leader Kim Jong Un observed the test-launch of a super-large multiple rocket launcher, the latest in a series of weapons tests performed amid stalled diplomacy over the North's nuclear program.

Tuesday's rocket launcher test was made hours after North Korea said it was willing to resume nuclear negotiations with the United States in late September. While offering talks, North Korea still warned its dealings with the U.S. may end if Washington fails to come to the negotiating table without new acceptable proposals.

Some experts said North Korea aims to wrest concessions from the United States once their diplomacy resumes.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said Kim, accompanied by top military and ruling Workers' Party officials,

supervised the two rounds of test-firings at an unidentified place on Tuesday.

It was the second known test of a super-large multiple rocket launcher that North Korea says is needed to cope with outside military threats. The first test of the weapon occurred on Aug. 24.

Tuesday's test fulfilled its purpose and allowed authorities to decide "the next-stage orientation to complete the weapon system," KCNA said. It quoted Kim as saying what remains to be done is "running fire test."

Tuesday's weapons test was the eighth round of launches by North Korea since late July. Other weapons tested include at least three other newly developed short-range missile and rocket artillery systems that experts say would potentially expand its capabilities to strike targets throughout South Korea.

# World

## Netanyahu vows to begin annexing West Bank settlements

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Tuesday to annex the heart of the West Bank if he wins re-election next week, a move that could inflame the Middle East and extinguish any remaining Palestinian hope of establishing a separate state.

Arab leaders angrily condemned Netanyahu's remarks, and a U.N. spokesman warned the step would be "devastating" to the prospects for a two-state solution.

Netanyahu said he would extend Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Valley—an area seen as the breadbasket of any Palestinian state—shortly after forming a new government and would move later to annex other Jewish settlements.

Such action would swallow up most of the West Bank territory sought by the Palestinians, leaving them with little more than isolated enclaves.

Netanyahu said it was important to act as President Donald Trump prepares to unveil his Mideast peace plan after the Sept. 17 election.

"This is a historic opportunity, a one-time opportunity, to extend Israeli sovereignty on our settlements in Judea and Samaria, and also on other important regions for our security, for our heritage, and for our future," Netanyahu said, using the biblical terms for the West Bank.

The prime minister was not clear about the status of the Palestinians on the West Bank.

### Desperation mounts in Bahamas as shelters turn evacuees away

**NASSAU, Bahamas** (AP)—Desperation mounted in the Bahamas on Tuesday as hurricane survivors arriving in the capital by boat and plane were turned away from overflowing shelters.

As government officials gave assurances at a news conference that more shelters would be opened as needed, Julie Green and her family gathered outside the headquarters of the island's emergency management agency, seeking help.

"We need a shelter desperately," the 35-year-old former waitress from Great Abaco said as she cradled one of her 7-month-old twins on her hip, his little face furrowed. Nearby, her husband held the other twin boy as their four other children wandered listlessly nearby. One kept crying despite receiving comforting hugs.

Hurricane Dorian devastated the Abaco and Grand Bahama islands in the northern part of the archipelago a week



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks during a press conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019. AP

Over 2.5 million Palestinians live there and in east Jerusalem, in addition to nearly 700,000 Jewish settlers. Israel already has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that is not internationally recognized.

Netanyahu is locked in a tight race, and his announcement, the most detailed vision for the region that he has presented during his decade in power, was the latest in a series of frenetic moves he has

made in recent days to try to rally hard-line voters.

The proposal was dismissed by opponents as election theatrics. They have accused Netanyahu of trying to divert attention from a corruption scandal and Israel's security challenges. Later in the day, he was whisked away from a campaign event in southern Israel after Palestinian militants fired rockets toward the area.

Netanyahu's plan would

he said. "I keep looking for a place to go."

He said he found one small home for his family in Nassau but could not afford the \$900 monthly rent. Undeterred, Noel said he would keep searching.

Meanwhile, government officials said they were helping all evacuees and considering building temporary housing, perhaps tent or container cities.

"We are dealing with a disaster," said Carl Smith, spokesman for the Bahamas' National Emergency Management Agency. "It takes time to move through the chaos. We are responding to the needs."

The government has estimated that up to 10,000 people from the Abacos alone will need food, water and temporary housing.

Getting back to Abaco is the dream of Betty Edmond, a 43-year-old cook who picked at some fries with her son and husband in a restaurant at a Nassau hotel, where her nephew is paying for their stay.

ago, leaving at least 50 dead, with the toll certain to rise as the search for bodies goes on.

Nearly 5,000 people have arrived in Nassau by plane and by boat, and many were struggling to start new lives, unclear of how or where to begin. More than 2,000 of them were staying in shelters, according to government figures.

Green said that shelter officials told her they couldn't accept such young children, and that the family has slept in the home of a different person every night since arriving Friday in New Providence, the island where Nassau is situated.

"We're just exhausted," she said. "We're just walking up and down, asking people if they know where we can stay."

Erick Noel, a 37-year-old landscaper from Abaco with a wife and four children, found himself in the same situation. They will have to leave a friend's house by Wednesday and had not yet found a shelter where they could stay.

"They are full, full, full,"

hinge on a number of factors, most critically whether Trump would back him. But Trump's team of Mideast advisers is dominated by supporters of the settlements, and the muted reaction Tuesday from the U.S. indicated there would be little resistance.

U.S. officials said Netanyahu had told them about his proposal ahead of time and that they had not raised any objections because they do not believe it will affect prospects for an eventual peace agreement. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The Israeli leader spoke as the White House announced the firing of national security adviser John Bolton. Bolton was a strong supporter of Netanyahu's tough policies against Iran and had visited the Jordan Valley with the Israeli leader in June.

The Palestinians seek the

West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip—areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war—as part of a future independent state.

For Israel, the Jordan Valley

### In last words, Khashoggi asked killers not to suffocate him

**ANKARA, Turkey** (AP)—In his final words, slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi urged his killers not to cover his mouth because he suffered from asthma and could suffocate, according to Turkey's Sabah newspaper.

Sabah newspaper, which is close to Turkey's government, published new details of a recording of Khashoggi's conversation with members of a Saudi hit squad sent to kill him. The paper says the recording of Khashoggi's grisly Oct. 2, 2018 killing and reported dismemberment at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul was obtained by Turkey's intelligence agency.

According to the transcript, Maher Mutreb, a member of the Saudi hit squad, tells Khashoggi that he has to be taken back to Riyadh because of an Interpol order against him. The journalist objects,

saying there is no legal case against him and that his fiancée is waiting for him outside.

Mutreb and another man are also heard trying to force Khashoggi to send his son a message telling him not to worry if he doesn't hear from him, according to the paper. Khashoggi resists saying: "I will write nothing."

Mutreb is later heard saying: "Help us, so that we can help you. Because in the end, we will take you to Saudi Arabia. And if you don't help us, you know what will happen in the end."

Sabah also published Khashoggi's last words before he was apparently drugged and lost consciousness.

"Don't cover my mouth," he told his killers, according to Sabah. "I have asthma, don't do it. You'll suffocate me."

Some of the details of the transcript published by Sa-

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is considered a security asset because it provides a buffer zone against potential attacks from the east. Many moderate Israelis believe Israel should retain some element of control in the area under a peace deal. Palestinians, however, say there can be no independent state without the area, which comprises nearly a quarter of the West Bank. It is home to many Palestinian farms and also is one of the few remaining areas of the territory where the Palestinians have open space to develop.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said all agreements with Israel will be canceled if Netanyahu presses forward.

"We have the right to defend our rights and achieve our goals by all available means, whatever the results, as Netanyahu's decisions contradict the resolutions of international legitimacy and international law," he said.

The international community, along with the Palestinians, overwhelmingly considers Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem illegal.

Netanyahu's plan would turn Palestinian population centers into enclaves that he said he would seek to link to neighboring Jordan. Unlike Israeli settlers, West Bank Palestinians are not Israeli citizens and do not have the right to vote.

Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, condemned the announcement as "a serious escalation that undermines all peace efforts."

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were already in a searching United Nations report over Khashoggi's killing that had been released in June. The U.N. report alleged that Saudi Arabia bears responsibility for the killing and said Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's possible role in the killing should be examined.

Saudi Arabia initially offered multiple, shifting accounts about Khashoggi's disappearance. As international pressure mounted, the kingdom eventually settled on the explanation that he was killed by rogue officials in a brawl inside their consulate.

The kingdom has put 11 people on trial in non-public proceedings. The 33-year-old prince, who continues to have the support of his father, King Salman, denies any involvement in the slaying.

Khashoggi's remains have never been found.

# Focus

**BOSTON, England** (AP)—Like its American namesake, the English town of Boston has a reputation for rebellion.

Three years ago, almost 76% of voters in this eastern England town opted, against the government's advice, to leave the European Union, the highest pro-Brexit vote in the U.K. With Britain's departure delayed and politicians deadlocked, Bostonians now feel frustration, fatigue and even fury. And they warn Prime Minister Boris Johnson that he will be out of a job if he breaks his vow that Britain will leave the EU on Oct. 31, come what may.

"It's a shambles," retired truck driver Mick Phoenix said. "It's disgusting and, to be frank, verging on treason. They're going against the will of the people."

Julia Barber, shopping at the town's open-air market, is also frustrated with lawmakers who voted last week to block Johnson's bid to leave the EU without a deal, and rejected the prime minister's call for a snap election.

"We can't get anywhere. They are just blocking everything," she said. "The whole country's in limbo."

Britain as a whole is split down the middle over Brexit. But support for leaving the EU—and ending European citizens' automatic right to settle in the U.K.—remains strong in Boston, where rapid change from immigration has fueled resentment toward the 28-nation bloc.

Since the EU expanded eastwards in 2004, the historic market town has been transformed by thousands of immigrants from Poland, Lithuania and other ex-Communist countries who came to pick cauliflowers, broccoli and potatoes in the fertile fields around Boston or work in the region's food factories.

The population of Boston, 120 miles (200 kilometers) north of London, has grown by a fifth since 2001, to about 68,000. The sturdy little town that provided some of America's first Puritan settlers has become a collage of cultures. Traders sell local produce at an open-air market in the shadow of a medieval church, around the corner from a street of Eastern European supermarkets, travel agents and information centers.

Some long-term residents feel unsettled by the change. Unemployment in Boston is below the national average, but so are wages, and some locals blame the ready supply of migrant labor for keeping salaries low. Population growth—and years of public-spending cuts by the Conservative-led British government—have stretched schools, hospitals and housing. It's common to hear long-settled residents accuse the newcomers of drunkenness and bad behavior.

Nigel Welton, the Conservative deputy leader of the town council, thinks immigration has been good for Boston, and says migrants have sometimes been scapegoated for local problems. But he says "a lot of people have seen too much change, too quickly."

"We're a small, rural market town, and we've

recently started to have city problems," he said.

"When local people can't get jobs, local people can't get to see their doctor, local people can't get proper housing, and it's because of the amount of immigration without services, then that's going to upset the local community."

The concerns are shared by Anton Dani, Boston's first-ever immigrant mayor. Dani, who became civic leader in May, was born in Morocco, raised in France, and runs Cafe de Paris, a Gallic corner of Boston complete with pictures of the late French singer Charles Aznavour on the walls.

"This small town can't take everything," Dani said. "The infrastructure has been hit so hard that the people, their reaction—which is normal—has been delivering Brexit. If I look at it as a migrant, I do understand that kind of position."

Not all "leave" supporters in Boston are motivated by immigration. Simon Brigden, who is married to a Polish woman, said he doesn't like the bureaucratic EU, but thinks European citizens are an asset.

"I didn't vote (to leave) because of immigration," said Brigden, who employs Poles and Lithuanians in his construction business. "I don't want to get rid of them."

"They're obviously putting money into the local area as well," Brigden said after attending a Polish-language Mass with his family at St. Mary's Church. "They're filling the schools. They're filling the church up."

Some Brexit supporters acknowledge that leaving the EU won't solve all of Boston's problems. It may even make them worse. Farmers' groups say it is already getting harder to attract European workers, and the agriculture sector will face labor shortages if migration falls.

"When people were voting, they weren't aware what they were doing," said Adam Altynski, a Polish parcel delivery driver who has lived in Britain for 14 years. "Because it's going to affect them, that choice. It's going to be harder times. The economy will be in a much more difficult situation."

As it stands, Britain is set to crash out of the EU on Oct. 31 without a divorce deal to cushion the economic shock. Most economists say a no-deal Brexit will disrupt trade between Britain and the bloc and plunge the U.K. into recession. The pound, which has lost more than 15% of its value since the 2016 referendum,

is likely to fall further. Food prices are set to rise and medicines could run short.

Many Brexit supporters believe the long-term benefits of an independent trade policy will outweigh any short-term pain. And some simply don't care about the economic cost.

Anthony Henson, a retired IT and finance worker from the nearby town of Sleaford, said the vote for Brexit was about independence, not economics.

"It's our country: We ought to be able to determine how we work together with other countries and how we take our country forward," he said. "Whether it makes us richer or poorer is neither here nor there."

Boston's febrile Brexit atmosphere leaves Matt Warman, the area's member of Parliament, with a balancing act. The Conservative lawmaker spends a lot of time reassuring European constituents that Britain wants them to stay after Brexit, but also understands concerns about the rapid changes immigration has brought to the town.

He voted for former Prime Minister Theresa May's EU divorce deal—which was rejected three times by Parliament—but now agrees with Johnson that a no-deal Brexit would be better than remaining a member of the EU.

"What I hear from constituents is 'Get on with it,'" Warman said. "Respecting the result is something that trumps the potential short-term trauma of a no-deal."

The jobs of both Warman and his prime minister depend on delivering Brexit soon. With Parliament and the government deadlocked, Britain is almost certain to face a snap election within months. Pro-EU voters are already flocking to opposition parties, and if Johnson doesn't deliver on his promise to leave the EU on Oct. 31 "do or die," the Conservatives could lose towns like Boston to the single-issue Brexit Party, led by veteran euroskeptic politician Nigel Farage.

"Saturday the 31st of October, the prime minister has said 'Do or die.' That's what people believe. They're fully behind him," Welton said. "And if he doesn't deliver it, then people are going to be extremely upset in this town."

# Britain's Brexit heartland seethes at delay and 'betrayal'

By JILL LAWLESS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Environment

## DLNR, NOAA conduct Saipan sea turtle tagging

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Sea Turtle Program in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center recently conducted in-water sea turtle surveys around the island of Saipan.

Public Outreach specialist Carey Demapan noted that since 2011, staff from NOAA's PIFSC visit the CNMI once a year to conduct sea turtle surveys.

"These efforts build on a decade of research and continually strengthens partnership between NOAA PIFSC and DLNR. We extend our gratitude to Jessy Hapdei, diver and proprietor of Jessy's Tag Services, and Syd Takahashi and his boat crew from Fish-Guyz Scuba & Charter for successful tagging," she said.

Data collected will be used to assess green and hawksbill sea turtle populations, including turtle habitat use and movement.

According to DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente, the Sea Turtle Program continues to successfully track migration routes and patterns of green sea turtles.

"The work of our Endangered Species Program manager Lisa Szutkowski, Carey, and the NOAA team are an extremely dedicated effort to ensure the preservation and growth of sea turtle populations and their role in ocean ecosystems. As an endangered species, green sea turtles in our region require consistent monitoring



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Sea Turtle Program in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center recently conducted in-water sea turtle surveys and tagging around the island of Saipan.

to deter poaching and other threats to their nesting environment," Benavente said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

expressed that consistent collaboration between the NOAA team and the sea turtle program is a local effort with regional benefits.

"Over the years, DLNR's sea turtle program has received critical assistance from NOAA and our counterparts on Guam to work towards recovering sea turtle populations. I believe that with these surveys and our conservation efforts, we can protect and improve nesting rates in the CNMI and Micronesia. We still have a long way to go, but I commend our team for their persistent outreach to prevent further harm to our sea turtle species. I also strongly urge our community to take part in these efforts by staying vigilant and reporting suspicious activities," Torres said.

Research for this project was conducted under NMFS Permit# 21260. Under CNMI and federal law, it is illegal to harvest, capture, harass, or propagate sea turtles in the Marianas.

If you see injured, dead, or trapped sea turtles, illegal or suspicious activities that may result in turtle death or injury and any information concerning a poached turtle,

contact the DLNR Sea Turtle Standing Hotline at (670) 287-8537 (CTR-TLES). All tips are anonymous and lines are open 24 hours, seven days a week. (PR)



Two members of the team show off a sea turtle they just tagged.



Tagged sea turtles.

# Life & Style

# JLO

Lorene Scafaria, left, writer/director of the film "Hustlers," poses with cast member Jennifer Lopez during the Toronto International Film Festival, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, in Toronto.

AP

By JAKE COYLE  
AP FILM WRITER

**T**ORONTO (AP)—"Hustlers" is, in itself, a hustle.

It looks like a flashy, glamorous movie about strippers—all sparkle and skin and high-heels. And it is that. But the fleshy, dazzling surface of "Hustlers," written and directed by Lorene Scafaria, cloaks an empowering feminist tale about a sisterhood of women who turn the tables on a male-controlled industry.

"People go into the movie expecting something because stripper is a word that has so many connotations and preconceived notions," says Scafaria. "That's the hustle. Hopefully we're subverting expectations but subverting them in a way that has some nuance to it."

"Hustlers," opening in theaters this week following its well-received premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, stars Jennifer Lopez as Ramona, a veteran stripper in New York who takes a young dancer (Constance Wu) under her wing. Ramona organizes a scam to drug Wall Street guys and max out their credit cards. It's loosely based on a true story, chronicled in a 2015 New York magazine article, and set in the years after the 2008 financial crisis—when far greater, white-collar swindles went largely unprosecuted.

The transactional world of strip clubs—so commonly depicted from a male viewpoint in movies—has seldom been viewed through a female gaze like it is in "Hustlers." It's a microcosm, Lopez says, of America.

"It's all a strip club," says Lopez. "You have people tossing the money and people doing the dance."

"This film says something about the inequality that we've been yelling and screaming about for a while now and kind of making some headway," she adds. "And I hate saying that so broadly because I love men and there are so many great, supportive beautiful men in the world. But there is this thing that exists that we can't deny."

"Hustlers" might be Lopez's most radiant and regal screen performance, too, since Steven Soderbergh's 1998 film "Out of Sight." As Ramona, she's the matriarchal ringleader of an improvised family of strippers-turned-hustlers. (Cardi B makes her big-screen debut, alongside a cast including Lili Reinhart and Keke Palmer.)

Lopez is, like Ramona, an entrepreneur from the Bronx. She instantly identi-



# steals money and the show

fied with the role, even if the stripping scenes gave her pause.

"It was scary. I saw the script and it wasn't like boobs everywhere. That wasn't (Scafaria's) thing," says Lopez. "But I also knew I was playing a stripper and I'm a mom and what does that all mean? But I felt good about how Lorene wanted to tell the story and that it was something I could be proud of it."

Scafaria, the 41-year-old writer of "Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist," observed how much training Lopez put into the part. As experienced a dancer as she is, pole-dancing was something else entirely. Lopez' resplendent entrance in the movie is a stage dance set to Fiona Apple's "Criminal" while being showered with bills.

"It was like acrobatics. I had to start lifting more weights. I had to change my body," says Lopez. "I told her, 'I have to change my body if I do this.'"

"And I was like, 'Please don't. I don't know what we're talking about,'" retorts Scafaria, laughing.

In just the past two years, Lopez has released new Spanish-language tracks, launched a cosmetic line, got engaged to former baseball player Alex Rodriguez and recently concluded a 38-concert tour. Time Magazine has ranked her among the 100 most influential people in the world. "Second Act," released in 2018, proved movie audiences still love her. It grossed \$72.2 million worldwide. She's also a producer on "Hustlers."

"People think 'Oh, she's not a serious recording artist.' Or, 'she's not really a serious actress,' or 'She's not really a serious entrepreneur.' No, I'm very serious about all of them. That's why I've spent most of my life doing as many of those things as possible," says Lopez. "Because I do all those things, I don't get the credit at times—which is fine, I don't care. I love what I do."

I have the most amazing life. I feel good about my life. I feel good about where I am.

"But I've had to kind of give myself that pat on my back: 'You're doing good,'" she says. "Once I started doing that, my whole life changed."

"Hustlers," however, already has a lot of people heaping praise on Lopez. Scafaria says the part of Ramona "fits her like a glove—even if it's not a glove she's tried on in the same way."

The performance has catapulted Lopez into the awards conversation this fall. "Hustlers" may be about a broken value system, but it's brought renewed appreciation for Lopez as an actor. Lopez, who turned 50 in July, says an Oscar would be "a tremendous moment in my life."

"You dedicate your whole life to doing what you love, and you do it because you love it. But it's also nice when somebody says, 'Hey, we think you do it great,'" says Lopez. "I don't even want to think about it. I usually get tears in my eyes."

# HBO produces documentary to help kids understand 9/11

**NEW YORK** (AP)—For students from elementary to high school, the Sept. 11 terrorist attack isn't a memory. It's history. A new HBO documentary that debuts on the event's 18th anniversary treats it that way.

The necessity of her project, "What Happened on September 11," struck filmmaker Amy Schatz when a third grade girl told her about a playdate where she and a friend Googled "Sept. 11 attacks."

## Lawyer: John Hinckley interested in music industry job

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan is interested in getting a job in the music industry, possibly in California, his lawyer said at a court hearing in Washington on Tuesday.

John Hinckley Jr., 64, lives in Virginia and was not present at the hearing. A prosecutor said allowing Hinckley to relocate to California for a music industry job would give the government "great pause."

Hinckley spent decades living at a psychiatric hospital in Washington after being found not guilty by reason of insanity in the 1981 shooting that injured Reagan and three others. But health professionals have said that the mental illness that the 25-year-old Hinckley was suffering from when he shot Reagan has been in full and stable remission for decades. U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman has said he is no longer a danger to himself or others and has gradually allowed him more time away from the hospital and more freedom.

Since 2016, Hinckley has lived at his mother's home in Williamsburg, Virginia. Hinckley lives under a set of 30 conditions Friedman imposed including regular visits with mental health professionals. Friedman gets reports on how he's doing and, on Tuesday, said he believes some

conditions can be loosened.

"Some conditions that are now in place don't need to be in place," the judge said, though he didn't specify which ones.

Hinckley's conditions include living within a 75-mile radius of Williamsburg, attending group and individual therapy sessions, volunteering or working at least three days a week and not speaking with the media.

Hinckley's lawyer Barry Levine said during Tuesday's approximately 40-minute hearing that he would file a motion seeking reduced conditions, though he didn't say when or what precisely he'd ask for. He said he ultimately intends to ask that Hinckley be released without any conditions, and he said he would request that "in due course." He acknowledged after the hearing, however, that getting the judge to grant Hinckley unconditional release would be a lengthy process.

Hinckley lives with his older brother Scott as well as his mother, who is in her 90s. According to court records he anonymously sells books online as well as items at an antique mall. Music has long been an interest for Hinckley, who plays guitar, writes music and sings. He participates in music therapy once a month. Under the conditions Friedman has imposed, however, he can't perform publicly.

"When a child does that, what he or she finds are some pretty horrific images that are not necessarily appropriate for kids," Schatz said on Tuesday. "So I felt a responsibility to try to fill that void and try to give kids something that isn't horrifying and kind of fills in the gap."

The half-hour film debuts Wednesday at 6 p.m. A companion piece, focusing on the memories of former students at a high school near Ground Zero, premieres three hours later.

Schatz has made a specialty of creating films that seek to explain the inexplicable, with "The Number on Great-Grandpa's Arm" tackling the Holocaust and another on the Parkland shooting. "I'm really desperate for some more lightness very soon," she said.

In this case, she worked with the Sept. 11 remembrance museum on the story, filming two men who work there giving presentations to third graders. Stephen Kern, who worked on the 62nd

floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower, talks about being evacuated. Matthew Crawford, whose father was a firefighter who died that day, discusses his experience. She also found a middle school in Secaucus, New Jersey, that teaches history through art and poetry, helping students process the emotions of what they learned.

Short history lessons are sprinkled throughout the film, about New York and the World Trade Center, the one-time tallest towers in

the world. Construction began in 1968.

"One of the biggest questions the kids have is 'why? Why would somebody do that? Why would there be such cruelty?'" she said. "That's a very difficult thing to grapple with and answer so that was the trickiest part of the project."

The film tells of Osama bin Laden and his activism that started with the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. But it never truly answers the whys. Maybe no one can.

## Dennis Rodman keeps finding new ways to surprise

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Dennis Rodman keeps finding new ways to surprise.

The 58-year-old former NBA star built his own personal brand of flamboyant individualism well before social media made every pro athlete accessible to fans, and outside the traditional endorsements-and-corporate partnership framework. At the peak of his fame in the 1990s, Rodman pulled the spotlight toward himself by swapping out hair colors, adding tattoos and piercings, dressing in drag, and dating Madonna.

"I branded Dennis Rodman being different," he says. "I was just being free ... because I was becoming so bored about life and about playing the game of basketball, I had to do something to spark my life."

Hinckley lives with his older brother Scott as well as his mother, who is in her 90s. According to court records he anonymously sells books online as well as items at an antique mall. Music has long been an interest for Hinckley, who plays guitar, writes music and sings. He participates in music therapy once a month. Under the conditions Friedman has imposed, however, he can't perform publicly.



After winning two championships with the Detroit Pistons and three with the Chicago Bulls, Rodman flamed out of the NBA in 2000. He spent years pursuing lackluster side hustles—and partying—then found his way back in front

of microphones and cameras by forming a relationship with North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un.

Rodman's spectacular personal highs and very public lows are the subject of the new ESPN "30 For 30"

In this Monday, Sept. 9, 2019, photo, former NBA star Dennis Rodman poses wearing a T-shirt depicting himself in a wedding dress at a 1996 book promo event, in Los Angeles.

documentary "Dennis Rodman: For Better or Worse." While making promotional rounds for the film, he wore a T-shirt depicting himself in a wedding dress at a 1996 book promo event.

Rodman spoke with The Associated Press about finding his niche as an entertainer, locker-room etiquette and President Donald Trump's North Korea diplomacy.

AP: Sometimes being out of control led to the things that were best for you, and sometimes the worst for you. How do you think about that?

## Actress Salma Hayek says she wants to protect Mexico's image

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—Salma Hayek says she refrains from using social media to comment on problems in her native Mexico because she wants to protect the country's image.

During an appearance Tuesday to promote her Netflix series "Monarcha" on a family's tequila empire, the actress was asked why she doesn't use her social media presence to draw more attention to Mexico's ills.

Hayek said she doesn't believe a post on her Instagram account can change things because most of her followers don't live in Mexico.

At the same time, she added,

a critical post puts negative attention on Mexico elsewhere in the world, and "that can affect us with tourism, with people who are trying to invest in Mexico." She said she doesn't want to hurt her country.

## Constant talk about losing weight has unhealthy effect

**D**EAR ABBY: My dad had a heart attack and nearly died a year ago. Since then, he has totally revamped his diet and put forth the effort to eat a plant-based diet to become healthier. It has been a family affair, and my sister jumped on the bandwagon as well.

I have battled for years with an unhealthy relationship with both alcohol and food. I have been seeking help for my troubles. The more help I have received, the more I have come to realize my body dysmorphia issues come from my mom and sister and their constant talk about losing weight and being healthy. (Get this: When Mom isn't around my dad, she downs double cheeseburgers, and my sister can drain a bottle with the best of them.) Every single family event or dinner out there's a discussion about how my mom needs to lose weight or eat better or something.

I want to support Dad, and other family members as well. How do I politely tell them I can no longer be around the constant "lose weight" talk or healthy food talk because it is hindering my own ability to heal and be happy with my body? And how do I tell a family of drinkers I'm no longer drinking?

UNHEALTHY IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR UNHEALTHY:** Congratulations on the lifestyle changes you are adopting. Change isn't easy, and how your family reacts to the new you will affect your relationship with all of them.

Approach your mother and your sister privately. Explain that in the course of getting help for your own issues you have discovered that certain subjects are detrimental to your recovery, and you would appreciate it if they were not a topic of conversation when you are together.

As to explaining your abstinence from alcohol to those who choose to imbibe, I do not think it is realistic to expect them to stop because you have chosen to. When drinks are offered, ask to be served something nonalcoholic. Many people do it these days, and it should not present a problem. If you are cajoled into having "just one," you may then have to seriously curtail the time you spend with them.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend I connect with on many different levels. It's amazing. But he's already in a relationship. He tells me he loves me and doesn't ever want to lose me, but he never talks about leaving her. He says things will naturally work themselves out.

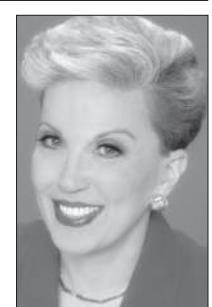
Although he says he isn't trying to have his cake and eat it too, that is exactly how it feels at times. I'm confused about what to do. My heart and my head are at odds. Please give me some advice that will help me settle my inner self.

CONFUSED GIRL IN LOVE

**DEAR CONFUSED GIRL:** As it stands, your friend has

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

two women, and you have half a man. He may love you, but if he was IN love with you, he would end the relationship with his girlfriend. He never talks about leaving her because he doesn't intend to rock the boat.

I know the idea of breaking things off is painful, but while you have romantic feelings for this person, you won't be free to find anybody else. You deserve someone who is willing to make the same kind of commitment to you that you are willing to make to him. Repeat that to yourself daily until he's out of your system.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

BY GOLLY, I AM GOING TO STEAL MY TRUCK BACK FROM MOE! IT'S MINE AND HE HAS NO RIGHT TO HAVE IT!



I'LL JUST SNEAK UP BEHIND THE SWINGS HERE, AND WHEN MOE'S NOT LOOKING, I'LL RUN UP, GRAB THE TRUCK AND TAKE OFF!



By Bill Waterson

THIS PLAYGROUND SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THOSE AUTOMATIC INSURANCE MACHINES LIKE THEY HAVE IN AIRPORTS.



## Garfield®

GREETINGS, CAT. I HAVE DECIDED TO BECOME A SERIOUS PERSON



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By Jim Davis

HOW WAS THAT? PRETTY GOOD, HUH?

YOU HAD ME THERE FOR A MOMENT



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## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

|         |             |           |            |            |            |         |  |
|---------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|--|
| ACROSS  | 37          | Restau-   | 55         | Is in debt | 21         | Scull   |  |
| 1       | Abound      | rant      | 22         | need       |            |         |  |
| 5       | Gratuity    | bigwig    | 23         | Lama       |            |         |  |
| 8       | Dating      | 40        | Pirate's   | 24         | Brontë     |         |  |
| from    | drink       | drin      | features   | 25         | heroine    |         |  |
| 12      | Aleutian    | 41        | Tooted     | 26         | Caboose    |         |  |
| island  | one's       | one's     | 27         | Jet speed  |            |         |  |
| 13      | Online      | 45        | March      | 28         | Medicinal  |         |  |
| address | address     | Madness   | photo      | 29         | plant      |         |  |
| 14      | Arp's       | 47        | 2016       | 30         | "Why       |         |  |
| art     | art         | Olympics  | Olympics   | 31         | does this  |         |  |
| 15      | Gunshot     | 48        | city       | 32         | keep       |         |  |
| sound   | sound       | 2016      | city       | 33         | happening? |         |  |
| 16      | Baton       | 49        | Olympics   | 34         | 32         |         |  |
| Rouge   | sch.        | Pot       | city       | 35         | Twister    |         |  |
| 17      | Race        | starter   | 2016       | 36         | Jima       |         |  |
| place   | place       | sharp     | Olympics   | 37         | Old Olds-  |         |  |
| 18      | Equilib-    | 50        | Coin toss  | 38         | mobile     |         |  |
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| 20      | Disposition | 52        | Bruce      | 40         | with       |         |  |
|         |             | of "Ne-   | 53         | Queue      | cloth      |         |  |
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| bigwig  | bigwig      | 56        | Kong"      | 42         | Recogn-    |         |  |
| 26      | Estate      | Simpsons" | 57         | 58         | ized       |         |  |
| house   | house       | 19        | Simpsons"  | 43         | French     |         |  |
| 29      | — Lingus    | bartender | 19         | 101        | 101 verb   |         |  |
| 30      | Deli loaf   | with cash | 20         | 44         | Lairs      |         |  |
| 31      | Oodles      |           | 21         | 45         | Cowboys'   |         |  |
| 32      | PC key      |           |            | 46         | org.       |         |  |
| 33      | O'Hara      |           |            | 48         | Roman      |         |  |
| estate  | estate      |           |            |            | 151        |         |  |
| 34      | Camp        |           |            |            | "As I see  |         |  |
| bed     | bed         |           |            |            | it," in a  |         |  |
| 35      | — pickle    |           |            |            | text       |         |  |
| 36      | Pollster    |           |            |            |            |         |  |
| Elmo    |             |           |            |            |            |         |  |

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Potter, 24; Emmy Rossum, 33; Jennifer Hudson, 38; Benjamin McKenzie, 41.

**Happy Birthday:** It's up to you to bring about change. If you sit back and wait for something to happen, you will end up disappointed. Put your energy, time and intelligence into turning your plans into something tangible. Explore the possibilities, and don't stop until you are satisfied that you have done everything you can. Make this a year to remember. Your numbers are 3, 15, 19, 22, 26, 32, 44.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Be careful who you share personal information with or who you trust with your belongings. Someone will use information against you if given a chance. Observe and listen more, and you will gain leverage against anyone trying to undermine you. ☀️

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Get involved in a project that excites you. You'll meet someone who will inspire you to bring about positive change. Personal gains, self-improvement and new beginnings will encourage success. Romance is in the stars. ☀️

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone talk you into something you shouldn't do. Indulgent behavior will result in relationship difficulties and possible loss, debt or injury. Protect yourself against people and situations that are questionable and challenges that are unrealistic. ☀️

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Personal and domestic changes are favored. Self-improvements will lead to compli-

ments, and making your surroundings more convenient or comfortable will draw the people you love spending time with most to share your space. Romance is on the rise. ☀️

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You may want to go over any details personally before you agree to a proposal someone makes. Getting roped into spending on something unnecessary will leave you short on cash. Put more significant effort into taking care of your responsibilities. ☀️

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mix business with pleasure. Learn from the best, and share with those who are willing and able to contribute as much as you. Stick to simple plans and a budget that fits your lifestyle. Personal improvements can be made. ☀️

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look for the less obvious reasons not to get involved with someone or in something that you don't understand or know enough about. You are best to flesh out your own ideas and plans instead of doing so for someone else. ☀️

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A positive change at home will encourage you to start a project that you have wanted to do for some time. The people who offer to help will give you information that will shine insight onto your lineage. ☀️

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep opinions and feelings to yourself. The less you share about yourself, the easier it will be to fly under the radar and accomplish your goals. Pursue what makes you happy, but don't let indulgence be your downfall. ☀️

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Personal and domestic changes are favored. Self-improvements will lead to compli-

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal gains and improvements should be your top priorities. Learn all you can, and do as much of the physical labor as possible yourself. Leave nothing to chance. Aim to control what's going on in your life. ☀️

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do what you can to expand your skills, knowledge and qualifications. How you pursue your goals will make a difference in the way you are viewed by others. Keep competitive individuals at a distance until you reach your goal. ☀️

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Personal improvements should be a priority. Whether it's nurturing a meaningful relationship, taking better physical care of yourself or pitching in and helping improve your community, what you accomplish will be emotionally gratifying. Romance is on the rise. ☀️

**Birthday Baby:** You are intelligent, giving and inventive. You are resourceful and courageous.

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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

|   |  |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |  |  | 7 | 9 | 3 |   |  |
|   |  |  | 8 |   | 2 | 4 |  |
|   |  |  |   | 2 | 5 | 1 |  |
|   |  |  | 3 |   |   |   |  |
| 1 |  |  | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 |  |
|   |  |  |   | 1 |   |   |  |
|   |  |  | 5 | 9 | 6 |   |  |
| 7 |  |  | 4 |   | 8 |   |  |
|   |  |  | 3 | 9 | 5 |   |  |

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 2 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 |

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FODOR'S GUIDES

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| R | C | C | C | R | U | I | S | E | S | U | R | V | E |






</tbl

## CLASSIFIED ADS



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jamesrthomas67@hotmail.com

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) Counter Clerks - \$7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT  
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description. Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Degree;
- At least 6 months experience;
- Must be a computer literate

All interested applicants can submit resume at annie@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.

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APEX BUILDERS, INC.  
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refine, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience;
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

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Two (02) Maintenance Technicians \$8.33 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and adjusting machinery, equipment, and fixtures; and lifting, moving, or storing. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Disassemble machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts; checking fluid levels; replacing filters, repair materials, or parts catalogs, as necessary. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as hammers, hoists, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills power circular saws and pullers.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**  
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, refine, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:**

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience;
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

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WHATZIT Solution: Go out in style

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

## ADS

- 3-Liner \$15
- 5-Liner \$24

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## Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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## Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**WHATZIT?**  
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**GO STYLE**

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

# Dodgers clinch 7th straight NL West title



BALTIMORE

(AP)—The

Los Angeles Dodgers clinched their seventh consecutive NL West title in fitting fashion, using two home runs by Corey Seager and a masterful pitching performance by Walker Buehler to beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-3 on Tuesday night.

After the final out, the first team to clinch a playoff spot this season gathered at the mound for a subdued celebration that included a wardrobe change for a pending champagne celebration in the clubhouse.

Los Angeles, coming off consecutive World Series losses to Houston and Boston and seeking its first title since 1988, will likely begin the postseason at Dodger Stadium on Oct. 3 against the NL wild-card team.

This is the earliest that Los Angeles (94-52) has ever clinched the division, both in terms of date and games. The 1977 team did it in Game 151, and the 2013 club clinched on Sept. 19.

Though an Arizona loss to the New York Mets would have clinched it for the Dodgers, Los Angeles emphatically took care of business on its own. Seager homered with two on to cap a four-run first inning against Ty Blach (1-3) and added a two-run drive in the third for a 6-0 lead.

Gavin Lux hit his first career homer in the fifth to increase the Dodgers' NL record for long balls in a season to 258.

Buehler (13-3) limited last-place Baltimore to four hits over seven shutout innings. He struck out 11.

## Mets 3, Diamondbacks 2

In New York, Zack Wheeler pitched one-run ball over seven innings, Justin Wilson navigated four difficult outs for his first save since April and the Mets beat Arizona.

New York has taken the first two games in this key four-game set between NL playoff contenders. Arizona had won 11 of 14 and opened the day 2 1/2 games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second wild card.

Todd Frazier drove a pair of run-scoring doubles for the Mets, who began the day four games behind the Cubs.

Diamondbacks rookie Zac Galler (3-5) pitched three-run ball over six innings.

Eduardo Escobar homered off reliever Brad Brach and drove in two for Arizona. He has 112 RBIs.

Wheeler (11-7) struck out seven and allowed seven hits and two walks.

## Phillies 6, Braves 5

In Philadelphia, Corey Dickerson homered twice to help



AP  
Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Gavin Lux looks to throw to first on a single by Baltimore Orioles' Jonathan Villar during the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019, in Baltimore.

Sean Murphy each homered twice, and Oakland tagged Wade Miley for seven runs in the first inning and scored a season-high 21 runs in a rout of the Astros.

After being blanked in a lopsided loss on Monday, Oakland recovered to win its seventh of nine and remained ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild-card spot.

The Nationals entered 9 1/2 games behind the Atlanta Braves in the National League East, but they were in the first wild card spot, 4 1/2 games above the cut, ahead of Milwaukee.

## White Sox 7, Royals 3

In Chicago, rookie Eloy Jiménez hit his first career grand slam, Yoán Moncada launched a two-run homer and the White Sox beat Kansas City.

Adam Engel added a solo shot for as the White Sox won their second straight, but just their fourth in 14 games.

Adalberto Mondesi, Alex Gordon and Ryan O'Hearn went deep for the Royals.

Ivan Nova (10-12) allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings to snap his three-game losing streak. The right-hander yielded six hits, while walking none and striking out five.

Jakob Junis (9-13) permitted five runs in five-plus innings in losing for the third time in four decisions.

## Athletics 21, Astros 7

In Houston, Matt Olson and

Rockies 2, Cardinals 1

In Denver, Nolan Arenado hit a 482-foot two-homer that bounced out of Coors Field in the first inning, Chi Chi González got his first big league win in four years and Colorado slowed St. Louis' playoff push.

St. Louis had won 23 of 30 coming in to open a four-game lead in the NL Central over the second-place Chicago Cubs.

González (1-6) allowed one run and four hits in six innings. Jairo Díaz got six outs and finished a six-hitter for second save.

## Yelich breaks kneecap, out for season

MIAMI (AP)—Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers didn't need this kind of break.

Trying to catch up in the wild-card race, the Brewers instead saw the reigning NL MVP foul a ball off himself and go down with a broken right kneecap Tuesday night.

"We don't have a definitive time frame other than we know he will be out the remainder of the season right now," general manager David Stearns said after a 4-3 win over Miami. "We also don't know if surgery is required."

Yelich, who did not talk with reporters after the game, will travel to Milwaukee for additional tests on Wednesday.

The Brewers didn't say whether Yelich might be able to return for the playoffs that begin Oct. 1 if they make it that far. Milwaukee, which won its fifth in a row, began the day two games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

Berriós (12-8) struck out four and walked one. Aníbal Sánchez (8-8) was almost as

sharp for the Nationals, finishing with four hits and one walk allowed, along with five strikeouts.

The American League Central-leading Twins took a five-game lead on Cleveland into

sharp for the Nationals, finishing with four hits and one walk allowed, along with five strikeouts.

Yelich hit .329 with 44 home runs and 97 RBIs along with 30 stolen bases this season. The outfielder was leading the majors in slugging percentage and OPS when he was hurt.

"We feel awful for Christian," manager Craig Counsell said. "That's the thing that resonates with me right now. He's a special player and it's a joy to watch him play every day. He's the best at what he does. Not being able to see that every day is not good."

The team learned the severity of his injury by the middle of the game.

"I went out there and his whole body was shaking," Counsell said. "I was concerned and when he got up and went down the stairs I was optimistic. Then we got the bad news."

Trent Grisham continued Yelich's at-bat with a 1-2 count

and struck out—the strikeout was charged to Yelich.

"Obviously awful, we all know Yeli and what kind of guy he is," said Marlins manager Don Mattingly, who had Yelich in his final two seasons in Miami before his trade to Milwaukee.

"You hate to see a player like that get hurt down the stretch. He's stepped into the superstar realm as a player, and MVP last year. You don't want to see that happen to a team down the stretch," he said.

It was 3-all when Yasmani Grandal led off the ninth with a single off Miami reliever Adam Conley (2-9) and advanced to third on Grisham's double. Pinch-hitter Austin's fly ball to medium center was deep enough to score Grandal.

Junior Guerra (9-5) got the win in two innings of relief while allowing Starlin Castro's solo homer in the eighth that tied it at 3. Drew Pomeranz pitched a scoreless ninth around two singles for his first save.

# Argentina ousts Serbia, to face US or France next

DONGGUAN, China (AP)

—The last time Luis Scola went to the semifinals of the World Cup, he was 26 and waiting to bring his long, flowing dark hair to the NBA for the first time.

He's 39 now. A decade-long career in the NBA has come and gone. The hair is closely cropped now, with plenty of gray mixed in there.

And he's back in FIBA's Final Four.

Scola scored 20 points, Facundo Campazzo finished with 18 points and 12 assists and Argentina stunned Serbia 97-87 in the World Cup quarterfinals on Tuesday night. Argentina (6-0) plays next in Friday's semifinals at Beijing, against the winner of Wednesday's quarterfinal in Dongguan between the U.S. (5-0) and France (4-1).

"It means a lot," Scola said.

Serbia was considered the pre-tournament favorite by many, and came in expecting to win gold after losing title games to the U.S. at the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics. Argentina had other plans and Scola made a very loud statement after the game—this outcome, he insisted, was no fluke.

"It just bothers me that people keep talking about miracle, keep talking about surprise, keep talking about nobody believing," Scola said. "I'll tell you, there were 22 people that believed for the last two months that we were going to be here. That's all we need, just 22. We've got them and this is far from a miracle."

Patricio Garino added 15 for Argentina.

Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 21 points for Serbia (4-2), which got 18 points from Nemanja Bjelica and a 16-point,

**PARIS** (AP)—England's scoring form was on display again in European Championships qualifying on Tuesday. So was Cristiano Ronaldo's.

England made it four wins out of four in Group A with a 5-3 win over Kosovo and Ronaldo netted four goals in European champion Portugal's 5-1 away win at Lithuania.

On a night of heavy scoring, it took the five-time Golden Ball winner's international tally to a whopping 93. Ronaldo might well hit the century mark before next year's tournament, considering Portugal still faces Lithuania at home and twice plays lowly Luxembourg.

"I'm going through a good phase, but the team has been playing well too," Ronaldo said. "I'm enjoying this moment not only because of my goals, but also because of the team's performances in recent years. I just have to keep helping the team."

Ronaldo scored from the

AP  
Serbia's Nemanja Bjelica, left, fights for the ball with Argentina's Facundo Campazzo during a quarterfinal match for the FIBA Basketball World Cup in Dongguan in southern China's Guangdong province on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2019.



10-rebound effort from All-NBA center Nikola Jokic. Vasilije Micic played 18 minutes for Serbia, after the death of his mother earlier this week.

"We put a lot of work in this summer," Bjelica said. "It's hard. But it's basketball. There are more important things."

Argentina led most of the way, lost the lead briefly on the first possession of the fourth quarter when Marko Guduric made a 3-pointer for Serbia—which the winners answered with a 19-6 run over the next 6 minutes.

Bogdanovic's 3-pointer with 1:20 left got Serbia within 91-85. But Campazzo's jumper on the next possession

pushed the lead back to eight, and that's about when the blue-and-white-clad Argentine fans in the stands knew it was time to celebrate.

"Campazzo absolutely dominated the game," Serbia coach Sasha Djordjevic said of Argentina's 5-foot-10 point guard, who dazzled throughout. "Absolutely dominated the game. This is his victory."

Scola said it was a total team effort.

"I think we played a very good basketball game," Scola said. "We're a good team. We've played a great tournament and we deserved to win."



## US scouting

The U.S. sent its scouting group—Jeff Van Gundy, Lloyd Pierce and Ime Udoka among them—to see the

Argentina-Serbia game in person. U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said he's watching plenty of games on off days, but is letting the group led by Van Gundy handle the bulk of the scouting details.

Argentina gets more than a trip to the semifinals—it gets an extra day off. After playing every other day so far in the tournament, Argentina will have two full rest days before seeing either the U.S. or France on Friday.

## Spain in semis

Ricky Rubio scored 19 points, including a pair of 3-pointers in a game-deciding 11-0 run in the final minutes, and Spain advanced to the semifinals by topping Poland 90-78 on Tuesday night.

Willy Hernández scored 18 points, Rudy Fernandez added 16 and Rubio had a game-high nine assists for Spain (6-0), which had been beaten in the quarterfinal round of the last two World Cups—by France in 2014, and by Serbia in 2010 when the tournament was still called the world championship.

But Spain broke through this time, and will face either

Australia or the Czech Republic in the semifinals at Beijing on Friday.

A.J. Slaughter scored 19 points and Adam Waczyński finished with 15 for Poland (4-2), which is assured of finishing no worse than eighth at its first appearance at the World Cup since 1967.

Poland got within 76-72 on a layup by Waczyński with 5:42 remaining, but Spain pulled away over the next three minutes. Hernández's three-point play got Spain's run started, Rubio then made his 3s about 90 seconds apart and Marc Gasol found Victor Claver for a dunk with 2:41 left that made it 87-72.

hitting his spot kick too close to goalkeeper Josep Gomes in a one-sided first half where France largely struggled to turn possession into chances.

Coman pounced in the 18th after latching onto Jonathan Ikone's pass behind the defense for his third goal in two France games.

Griezmann's curling free kick from the left was headed in by Clément Lenglet soon after the break.

Substitute Wissam Ben Yedder added the third during injury time, steering the ball in from close range after Nabil Fekir's free kick was spilled by Gomes.

Turkey and France top Group H with 15 points and meet at Stade de France on Oct. 14.

Striker Cenk Tosun netted twice in Turkey's 4-0 win at Moldova.

Third-place Iceland slipped three points behind the top two after losing 4-2 away to Albania.

Andorra has scored no goals and conceded 14 in six defeats.

## Ronaldo keeps up scoring form in Euro qualifying

penalty spot in the seventh minute, before Lithuania hit back through Vytautas Andriuskevicius' header.

Portugal's second goal was given to Ronaldo before being changed to an own goal, and then given back to him on UEFA's website. The bizarre-looking 62nd-minute effort was a low shot from outside the area. It was saved by Lithuania goalkeeper Ernestas Setkus, before the ball bounced off the goalkeeper's back and went in.

Three minutes later, Ronaldo tapped in from Bernardo Silva's pass, and the attacking midfielder set him up again in the 76th. William Carvalho completed the scoring in stoppage time against last-place Lithuania.

Portugal is second in Group B with eight points and five behind Ukraine, which has 13 points having played one game more.

In other results, powerful

striker Aleksandar Mitrović netted twice as third-place Serbia won 3-1 away to Luxembourg.

Striker Harry Kane moved onto a more modest 26 for England, whose fans got a jolt when midfielder Valon Berisha put the visiting side ahead after just 35 seconds.

They were soon reassured by Raheem Sterling's equalizer and Kane's latest goal for England, both inside the opening 20 minutes at St. Mary's Stadium in Southampton on a rare occasion England wasn't playing at Wembley Stadium.

By halftime fans had been treated to five home goals, including 19-year-old winger Jadon Sancho scoring his first two for England.

But the second half proved more inspiring for Kosovo's fans as they witnessed a mini-come-



back, with Berisha enjoying a memorable night with a fine second goal curled into the top corner. Kane could have netted a brace, too, but saw his penalty saved by Arijanet Muric.

World Cup winner France labored at times against a well-organized Andorra side in a 3-0 home win, with Barcelona forward Antoine Griezmann missing a penalty for the second straight qualifier.

After Kingsley Coman found a way through in the first half, center half Clément Lenglet and substitute Wissam Ben Yedder added goals after the break.

England's attack is purring with 19 goals in four games, but alarming questions will be asked of the defense.

From a commanding position of 5-1 up, England leaked

two goals after the break—one of those a penalty conceded by the expensively-acquired Manchester United center back Harry Maguire.

Kosovo's opening goal was the result of a careless pass from defender Michael Keane.

England still hasn't lost a qualifier for either the World Cup or European Championship in 10 years. But coach Gareth Southgate knows his defense has to eradicate such sloppy errors if his side wants to win Euro 2020.

"The outstanding play was obvious," Southgate said, "and the errors were obvious."

The Czech Republic overtook Kosovo to move into second place in Group A with nine points after a 3-0 win at Montenegro and hosts England on Oct. 11.

Griezmann remains stuck on 29 international goals after

# Jets acquire Thomas from Pats for draft pick



**NEW YORK**  
(AP) — The New York Jets are getting some roster help from the most unlikely of sources: Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots.

Adam Gase's squad acquired wide receiver Demaryius Thomas from the Patriots for a 2021 sixth-round draft pick on Tuesday, according to a person with direct knowledge of the deal.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams had not yet announced the trade.

ESPN first reported the deal—the first trade between the AFC East rivals since Bill Belichick took over as the Patriots' coach in 2000. The last trade between the teams was actually when Belichick left the Jets for the Patriots, and New York got a first-round pick.

Thomas became expendable for the Patriots when they signed Antonio Brown over the weekend.

The 31-year-old Thomas gives the Jets' receiving group an immediate boost, joining Robby Anderson, Quincy Enunwa and Jamison Crowder. The move also comes a day after Gase made it clear he wasn't pleased with the receivers' overall performance in a 17-16 season-opening loss to Buffalo.

Crowder had 14 catches for 99 yards as Sam Darnold used him often for short-yardage plays, but Anderson (three catches for 23 yards) and Enunwa (one for minus-4) combined for just four receptions.

Thomas and Gase were together in Denver from 2010-14, when Gase was the wide receivers coach and later the Broncos' offensive coordinator. Thomas was also part of the Broncos' Super Bowl-winning team with Peyton Manning in February 2016.

Thomas has 688 receptions for 9,330 yards and 62 touchdowns. He played for the Broncos from 2010 until being traded to Houston last October for a seventh-round draft pick. He tore his Achilles late last season, was released by the Texans in February and signed with the Patriots in April.

Thomas also faced some legal issues in the offseason when he pleaded guilty in March to careless driving in a February crash in downtown Denver. As part of the plea deal, Thomas' attorneys said prosecutors dismissed a felony vehicular assault charge. Thomas was fined \$300, ordered to complete 50 hours of community service and was placed on supervised probation for one year.



**AP**  
In this Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019 file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Jarrett Stidham, left, hands off to wide receiver Demaryius Thomas (88) in the first half of an NFL preseason football game in Foxborough, Mass.

sible for my rape."

Taylor also said in the statement she will cooperate with the NFL and any other agencies.

A spokesman for the NFL declined comment, but the Patriots said the league told the team it will launch an investigation.

"We are aware of the civil lawsuit that was filed earlier today against Antonio Brown, as well as the response by Antonio's representatives," the Patriots said in a statement. "We take these allegations very seriously. Under no circumstance does this organization condone sexual violence or assault. The league has informed us that they will be investigating. We will have no further comment while that investigation takes place."

The 31-year-old Brown, a Miami native, was released by Oakland last week after clashing with the team throughout training camp. He agreed to a contract with New England on Saturday, but has yet to play for the Patriots.

Brown and Taylor met through a Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at Central Michigan University, according to the suit.

Taylor said Brown reached out to her via Facebook in June 2017 and asked the former gymnast for help with improving his strength and flexibility.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor was sexually assaulted by Brown on separate training trips to Pittsburgh and Florida that same month. The suit includes what it says are text messages from Brown bragging about the second assault.

Taylor says in the suit she then cut off ties with Brown. But she agreed to work with him again after she says he apologized and agreed to provide hotel accommodations for each training trip.

According to the lawsuit, Taylor and Brown were in Miami in May 2018 when he raped her in a bedroom at his home. Taylor says she shouted "no" and "stop," but Brown refused.

Heitner said in his statement Taylor invited herself to join Brown and his friends on a night out on the town, and then came on to Brown before they engaged in consensual sex at his residence.

The receiver spent most of the summer on New England's physically unable to perform list while continuing to recover from his Achilles injury. Thomas was activated on Aug. 20 and had seven catches for 87 yards and two touchdowns in the preseason finale against the Giants.

## Brown accused of rape by former trainer

New England Patriots wide

receiver Antonio Brown has been accused of rape by a former trainer.

Britney Taylor says Brown sexually assaulted her on three occasions, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday in the Southern District of Florida.

Brown has denied the allegations. Darren Heitner, a lawyer representing Brown, told The Associated Press his client plans to countersue.

"He will pursue all legal

remedies to not only clear his name, but to also protect other professional athletes against false accusations," Heitner said in a statement.

Heitner said Brown and Taylor had "a consensual personal relationship."

The New York Times first reported about the lawsuit.

The AP does not ordinarily name the alleged victims of sex assaults, but Taylor was identified in the federal law-

suit and was quoted in a statement provided by her lawyer, David Haas.

"As a rape victim of Antonio Brown, deciding to speak out has been an incredibly difficult decision," Taylor said.

"I have found strength in my faith, my family, and from the accounts of other survivors of sexual assault. Speaking out removes the shame that I have felt for the past year and places it on the person responsible."

ans said he believes Newton

"I don't believe there is any doubt about it or he wouldn't be playing," Arians said. "Yeah, he has all of his tools and he's ready to go."

Arians said the Bucs won't defend Newton any differently on Thursday night.

"I don't want to find out in a game," Arians said.

Meanwhile, the Houston Texans released cornerback Aaron Colvin after his struggles in the team's season-opening loss to New Orleans, a person familiar with the move tells The Associated Press.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity on Tuesday because the move had not yet been announced.

Colvin was in the second year of a four-year, \$34 million contract that had \$18 million guaranteed.

## Newton still getting questioned about lack of deep passes

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)**— Cam Newton thinks he knows why the Panthers aren't throwing more deep passes.

The 2015 league MVP joked that Panthers offensive coordinator Norv Turner must have Christian McCaffrey on his fantasy football team, a reference to the Carolina running back getting the bulk of action in Week 1 and racking up 209 yards from scrimmage and scoring two touchdowns—on 29 total touches—in Carolina's 30-27 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

Newton, meanwhile, did not throw or run for a TD against the Rams and only attempted one pass of longer than 20 yards.

"I think that is what it is," Newton said with a big smile. "Doggone Norv gone and picked CMAC for fantasy, man. I should have went over

and seen who he was drafting in his league."

Then Newton paused and continued joking, "That's probably why we ain't throwing no deep passes, right? He didn't pick me for his quarterback! Now it's all making sense."

All kidding aside, there is some question about why Newton still isn't throwing deep even though he's supposedly healed and under no restrictions from the coaching staff following arthroscopic surgery in January.

Newton attempted 38 passes against the Rams, but most were check-downs or passes underneath the coverage. His only attempt beyond 20 yards was a ball that sailed 25 yards through the air and over the head of wide receiver Curtis Samuel.

That's reminiscent of last season when Newton struggled through a lingering shoul-

der injury that limited his arm strength. He rarely threw a pass of more than 20 yards in the second half of last season.

Newton has insisted his shoulder is fine entering Thursday night's game against Tampa Bay and that it didn't bother him in Week 1.

The 30-yard quarterback said he's grown tired of people asking him questions about it, and his standard answer has been that he's "taking what the defense gives him."

Still, the questions will continue until he proves he can throw deep in a real game.

"You are only asking me because of my shoulder," Newton said. "How about this, talk to the defensive coordinator for Tampa and ask if they don't think I can throw the ball over 20 yards and see how far that gets you."

Buccaneers coach Bruce Ari-

# Girls middle school caging starts Sept. 18

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER



The Public School System Girls Middle School Bas-

ketball league will kick off on Sept. 18 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The league is open to both private and public schools and games will be played from 4pm to 6:30pm every Wednesday. Eight matches will be

held on each playing day with PSS utilizing the north and south courts at the gym.

Participating schools include Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Hopwood Middle School 1 and 2, Mount Carmel School, Agape

School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, Dandan Middle School, Grace Christian Academy, and Saipan International School.

The first pair of matches next Wednesday at 4:30pm

will have Chacha battling Agape and GCA facing Tanapag. For the second set of games at 5pm, Hopwood 1 will take on MCS, while Hopwood 2 will duel Dandan. In the next two matches at 5:30pm, it will

be Mt. Carmel against FMS and Dandan versus SIS. For the last two matches at 6pm, Hopwood 1 will meet Chacha and Tanapag will fight Hopwood 2.

The league will have a single-round robin format in the regular season, which will last until Oct. 16 and results in the preliminaries will be used for seeding.

Each game will be played in two 10-minute halves, running time, and overtime will be three minutes. The playoff round that will take place on Oct. 18 will be a single-elimination affair.

Players must submit parental release forms beforehand, maintain passing grades in the most recent grading period, submit a sports physical, and must not be over 15 years of age within the school year.

## SAIPAN

From Page 28

Tsingtao lost the shaky lead when the game resumed with Mungcal stepping up and delivering the key free throws.

Mark Demonteverde had 19 markers on a losing effort for Tsingtao, while Gerald Rivera added 13, including 8 in the fourth period in his bid to keep the team's winning run. Jandoc was held to 3 points in the second half to finish with 15.

**Saipan Adventure 73—** Mungcal 18, Almario 16, Flores 10, Verdiflor 8, Octampo 7, Alipio 7, Morales 3, Singca 2.

**Tsingtao Boyz 71—** Demonteverde 19, Jandoc 15, Rivera 13, Aria 8, Pineda 4, Pangelinan 4, Tenepere 3, Alano 2, Danipog 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-18, 31-32, 52-52, 73-71.

## MPU

From Page 28

ers challenging four Japanese teams, including MP United's sister club Vivid Blue. Tristian and Jack Raho, Andrick Poon, Jereme Quimzon, William Sosa, Moshe Sikkel, Cassie Regan, Dong Hyun Lee, Dong Gyu Lee, Gyu Hyun Park, and Geon Ho Song suited up for the MP United U12 crew and earned a 1-1-2 win-draw-loss record in the Sept. 1 tournament hosted by Vivid Blue in Numazu-City.

The visiting team first duled Helki Football Club and forced a 1-1 draw. Next up for MP United was Katahama FC and Weaver's players eked out a 1-0 victory. For their last two

matches, MP United players challenged Vivid Blue U12 and U11 squads and dropped both games to finish fourth in the tournament. Vivid Blue U12 ruled the Pacific Ocean Cup 12 after earning an unbeaten record.

The champion squad and other participating teams were recognized at the awards ceremony along with the most valuable players from each group. Regan was named MVP of the MP United.

The players did their best and gave their all in each game they played. I'm sure that they will up their game and apply what they have experienced in Japan this coming fall season," Weaver said.

The 2019 NMIFA Youth



An MP United player dribbles during their game against Vivid Blue U11 in the Pacific Ocean Cup 12 held in Shizuoka, Japan early this month.

Football Fall League will kick off this weekend.

"This is my fourth year in a

row taking a team to Japan for the POC and I will continue to go back year after year. The hospitality that we receive once we step off the plane in Shizuoka is beyond words. The host families are so generous, kind and ensure that our stay is a memorable one. Numazu-city has become my second home," the MP United coach added.

The club would like to thank the tournament sponsors in Japan, Vivid Blue, coaches Sachi and Tomoki, IT&E, and I Love Saipan for their continued support to the biannual competition that MPU and Vivid Blue alternately host. The group also acknowledged the help of Kyoung Min Song, Naoko, assistant coach Skyler Poon and other team delegates Stephanie Kim, and Jin and Yun Hee Woo.

it this far after going through months of training and it's time to play with confidence and trust the process, believe that they are prepared to play in this high-level tournament," the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director added.

Mita admitted that all the teams they will face in the AFC qualifier are tough squads and he hopes the little scouting he did will help the Teen Ayuyus when they duel the host, Philippines, China, and Brunei.

"I watched the Philippines play against Indonesia last August and also Brunei against the Philippines. They are very good teams. I tried to analyze some matches, got as many information from these teams, and worked on some plays that will reduce the gap. And as for China, it is the top team in the group," Mita said.

The CNMI will be battling China, Brunei, and the Philippines for the first time in the U16 age group and Indonesia for the second. The Indons crushed the Commonwealth bets, 18-0, when they first collided during the same U16 qualifier in 2017 in Bangkok.

"Our biggest motivation against Indonesia is definitely not to let them get that big win again," Mita said.

The Teen Ayuyus will challenge the host on Sept. 18 for their third game, while the former's second match will be versus Brunei on Sept. 16. The CNMI will wrap up its campaign in the qualifier on Sept. 20 when it squares off against China.

The top finishers in Group G and 10 other pools plus the five best runners-up will qualify in the finals that will be played from Sept. 3 to 16, 2020.

## TEEN

From Page 28

Jerick Quimzon, Andrew Sablan, Leo Takahashi, Merrick Toves, and Garrett Weaver are on the Teen Ayuyus' roster and they left Saipan for Incheon, South Korea for their connecting flight to Indonesia.

The CNMI crew is expected to arrive in Jakarta later today and will have a day and half to prepare for its first game in the Group G qualifier against the Philippines. The CNMI-PH tiff is scheduled for this Saturday at 7pm (10pm Saipan time) at the Madya Stadium.

"This is it. All the months of training and working hard will come down to this AFC tournament. We have to show how far we have gone and what improvements we have," said Mita.

"I am sure the players will do their very best to represent the CNMI well. They made



CNMI Boys U16 National Team goalie and captain Merrick Toves, second left, gets a save, while his teammates prepare to head back to the play during a training match in Guam this year.



Dodgers clinch  
7th straight NL  
West title

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Jets acquire  
Thomas from Pats  
for draft pick

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28 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Players and officials  
of the CNMI Boys  
U16 National Team  
pose for a photo  
during a send-off  
ceremony for the  
group at Kanoa  
Resort last week.

## Teen Ayuyus leave for AFC event



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team left Saipan early this morning to compete in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia.

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
The CNMI's Leo Takahashi tries to control the ball during a training match against Guam. Takahashi and the rest of the CNMI Boys U16 National Team left Saipan for Indonesia to compete in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers.

Head coach Michiteru Mita left with the 23-player squad along with team manager Mikky Vargas, assistant coaches Jersh Angeles and Patrick McCallion and equipment manager/goalkeeper coach Christopher Aninzo. Joe Emil Antonio, Jerald Aquino, Gabriel Arkoh, Dev Bachani,

Richard Castro, Jeremiah Diaz, Chad Escaner, Oliver Fajardo, Kohtaro Goto, Dane Hodgers, Xin Wen Jin, Akira Kadokura, Jose Rafael Lopez, Brian Lubao, Jim Kurt Maniago, Alex Megino, Ariel Narvaez, Daniel Mar Pablo,

See TEEN on Page 27

### Saipan Adventure ends Tsingtao's streak

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

TSINGTAO  
ONE PACIFIC  
PROMOTIONAL  
BASKETBALL  
LEAGUE 2019

Saipan Adventure nipped Tsingtao Boyz, 73-71, during their match in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

Saipan Adventure got its fourth victory in seven games, while Tsingtao absorbed its first loss after going 7-0.

Randy Mungcal broke Tsingtao's heart after his pair of free throws handed Saipan Adventure the 2-point win. Before Mungcal's dagger, Saipan Adventure and Tsingtao battled for a loose ball and in the process Ed Pangilinan rammed into the former and sent him to the foul line. After Mungcal

made his charities, Tsingtao did not have enough time to pull up for a shot, ending its seven-game winning streak.

Mungcal top-scored for Saipan Adventure with his 18 points, including 9 in the fourth quarter, which started with his team grabbing the lead, 52-51, after John Morales scored the team's last 3 points in the penultimate frame.

Alvin Almario and Alex Ocampo backed up Mungcal in the fourth quarter after adding 5 points apiece. Almario finished with 16, while Ocampo had 7, making all of them in the second half.

The second half began with Tsingtao clinging to a 32-31 lead, behind the 12 points of Jetzen Jandoc. However,

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### MPU joins Pacific Ocean Cup 12

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club warmed up for the 2019 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League by participating in the Pacific Ocean Cup 12 held in Shizuoka, Japan early this month.

The Gene Weaver-coached squad had 11 play-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
MP United U12  
players chase the  
ball during their  
game against Vivid  
Blue U12 in the  
Pacific Ocean  
Cup 12 held in  
Shizuoka, Japan  
early this month.